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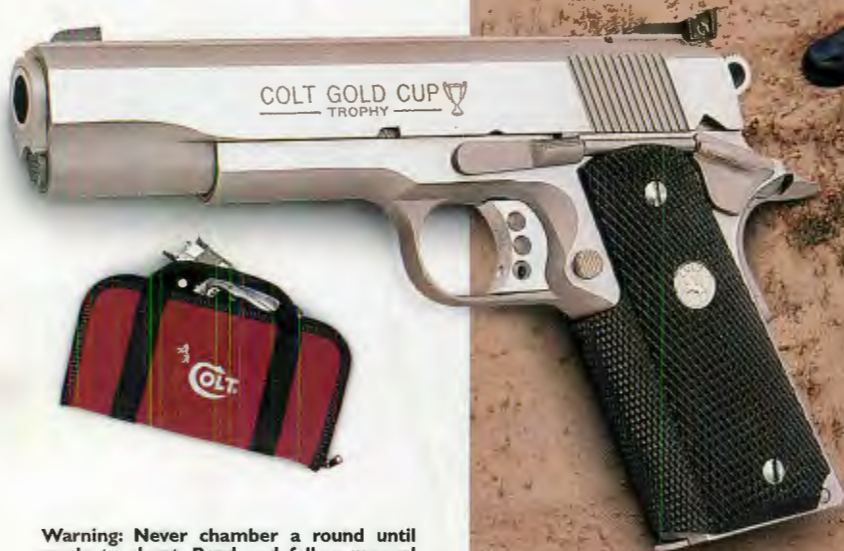
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**On the Cover**

Do today's graduates of the U.S. Army Ranger Course still have what it takes to *lead the way*? In northern Georgia, *SOF* goes tactical in mountain-phase training near Camp Frank D. Merrill. (Cover photos by Kulik Photographic and Gary Kieffer and Leif Skoogfors of Zuma.) See story, page

**40**

## FEATURES

**GEPARD**

Valery N. Shilin

There's nothing *sub* about Russia's forthcoming entry into the submachine-gun sweepstakes. This beauty is accurate to 400 meters.

**30**

**FISTFUL OF FURY**

Peter G. Kokalis

Beretta's reliable .32 ACP Tomcat is our technical editor's pistol of choice for pocket weaponry.

**35**

**RANGER, LEAD THE WAY!**

Marty Kufus

Here's an inside look at one of the world's top infantry-leadership courses: the U.S. Army Ranger school.

**40**

**AFRICA'S GANG-BANGERS**

JoMarie Fecci

Liberia's warring factions more resembled American street gangs than military units — especially with their deadly "Small Boy Units."

**44**

**GIs IN THE GULAG (Part 2)**

"Cicero"

Task Force Russia did *too* well in finding evidence of shanghaied American POWs in the Soviet Union. What was Bill Clinton afraid of when he closed the door on the investigation?

**48**

**ISLAMABOMB**

Al J. Venter

Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya — a portrait of international thugs speeding down the nuclear-wannabe highway.

**52**

**THE BOYS OF BRCKO**

Mark H. Milstein

SFOR's American elements are not in Bosnia to be *social workers* — despite the "We are the world" pabulum dispensed by the United Nations.

**56**

**PRIOR WARNING**

Roger G. Charles

If you thought the McVeigh trial fully explained the OKC bomb conspiracy, you're dead wrong. Mysteries linger in the Sooner State.

**60**



Marty Kufus

## COLUMNS

Command Guidance	4
<b>FLAK</b>	6
"The Magazine That Never Left The Battlefield"	
<b>Bulletin Board</b>	10
Surplus M16s For LA's Finest	
<b>Slick Willie Watch</b>	16
Down On The Border	
<b>Adventure Quartermaster</b>	18
Wilderness Survival	
<b>I Was There</b>	24
Weekend War ( <i>rior</i> )	
<b>World Sitrep</b>	26
<b>Combat Weaponcraft</b>	28
Tactical Tracer	
<b>Advertisers Index</b>	72
<b>Supply Depot</b>	73
<b>Classifieds</b>	77
<b>Sound Off</b>	82
Korea: Are We Ready For War?	



Valery N. Shilin



JoMarie Fecci



# COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

## Schumer's Native American "Militia"?

New York Democrat Charles "The Flake" Schumer has made a career of trying to outlaw private gun ownership in America, and was among the first to defend federal law-enforcement abuses that occurred at Ruby Ridge and Waco. But the politically correct congressman hasn't said one word about heavily armed criminals who have turned a Native American reservation in upstate New York into a conduit for international drug and weapons smuggling and a haven for terrorists.

At both Ruby Ridge and Waco, federal law-enforcement officers initiated military-style assaults against U.S. citizens because there was suspicion — merely *suspicion* — that federal firearms laws had been violated. But according to *SOF*'s well-placed government sources, a Mohawk crime ring has an arsenal of stolen and illegally imported weapons including M60 general-purpose machine guns, squad automatic weapons (SAWs), M16s, and AK-47s — as well as armed patrol boats.

There is no argument that American history is tarnished by the treatment Native Americans often received. But two wrongs do not make a right.

Calling themselves the "Mohawk Warrior Brotherhood," these outlaws have unilaterally declared themselves a sovereign nation. They have fired on numerous ships and Coast Guard vessels; further, two years ago a National Guard helicopter was shot down while overflying the reservation.

Law officers cannot do anything: Word has been sent down from the Clinton White House that a move against the Mohawks would be viewed as *inappropriate* by "Friends of Bill."

The St. Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation straddles nearly 10 miles of the U.S./Canadian border, adjacent to the St. Lawrence seaway. This proximity to an

international shipping channel, as well as a land border without barriers, has made smuggling highly profitable. Using (re-armed) ex-Navy craft donated to the tribe by the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency, the Brotherhood is able to smuggle people and contraband from international vessels and then outrun — or outgun — U.S. and Canadian authorities.

Liquor and cigarettes are smuggled into Canada, while drugs and "dirty" money enter the United States. Stolen U.S. military weapons, acquired from the Hell's Angels and Mafia, go abroad while foreign ordnance, including antiaircraft missiles, enters this country and Canada.

In addition to known ties with the intelligence organizations of Libya, Iran, and Iraq, the Brotherhood also has "business" links with *Hamas* (the Muslim fanatics responsible for suicide bombings in Israel) and the IRA, as well as organized crime in Russia and New York City.

Federal officers are not welcome on the St. Regis reservation. They are escorted on and off by the tribal police — controlled by the Brotherhood. Two years ago, a force of about 400 federal and state law officers tried to bring order to the reservation. It failed.

So why didn't the federal government call in enough force to restore order, preserve public safety, and demonstrate to TV audiences that no one is above the law? Certainly, political correctness is one answer. But there is more.

According to Federal Election Commission records, in 1996 two leaders of the Mohawk Warrior Brotherhood donated \$200,000 each to — guess who? — the Democratic National Committee that helped re-install Slick Willie in the White House.

*Soldier Of Fortune* will continue to report on the activities of this politically correct crime ring. ✖

## SOLDIER OF FORTUNE MAGAZINE

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SENIOR EDITOR Don McLean  
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### IN MEMORIAM

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Robert MacKenzie — Contributing Editor  
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## THE MODERN IDENTITY CHANGER

How to Create and Use a New Identity for Privacy and Personal Freedom

by Sheldon Charrett

Finally, here is an all-new book on the art and science of obtaining and using a new identity. This book focuses on the major pitfalls of traditional identity changing while explaining current solutions to the problem. Far from a slim handbook on acquiring a deceased infant's birth certificate, this is a complete identity-changing program, with step-by-step instructions on how to go about acquiring a new identity in today's data-drenched society, how to produce and manufacture the documents necessary to support that identity and how to obtain credit, employment and banking privileges for that identity. It's all here, from obtaining a legit Social Security number and driver's license to outwitting Big Brother's bureaucrats, who persistently demand their little papers, stamps, cards and tracking numbers. By studying this book, freedom seekers and privacy enthusiasts can maintain a fresh arsenal of information in the war against totalitarianism. *For academic study only!* 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, illus., 152 pp. **\$20.00**

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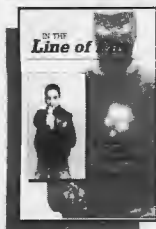


### GUERRILLAS IN THE MIST

**A Battlefield Guide to Clandestine Warfare**  
by Bob Newman

Foreword by Robert K. Brown

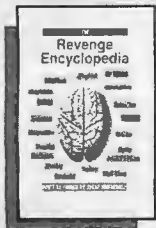
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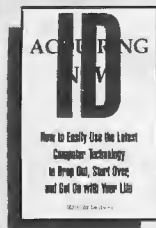
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by Michael E. Conti

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### ACQUIRING NEW ID

**How to Easily Use the Latest Computer Technology to Drop Out, Start Over, and Get On with Your Life**  
by Ragnar Benson

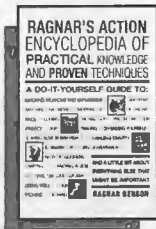
Forget about using the old "dead-baby's birth certificate" ruse to get new ID. Everyone's on to that trick. What you need is the know-how to make your own documents on a home computer. And by following the simple instructions in here, you can. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, illus., 152 pp. **\$20.00**



### THE ART OF THE RIFLE

by Jeff Cooper

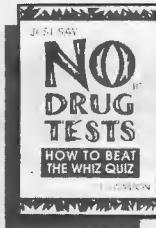
"Riflecraft has been completely ignored since World War II," says Jeff Cooper, America's foremost rifle instructor. To remedy this situation, he took it upon himself to set down the fine art of the rifle before it was lost forever. In his no-holds-barred style, Cooper instructs you in everything you need to know about shooting the rifle, while entertaining you with tales of marksmanship, combat and big-game hunting. 8 1/2 x 11, hardcover, photos, 104 pp. **\$29.95**



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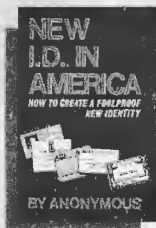
Learn how to build weapons, trap anything that moves, drop out of the rat race, protect your privacy, elude the bad guys, defend yourself, change identities, land a job and live well — as well as a little bit about everything else that might be important. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, illus., 456 pp. **\$45.00**



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by Anonymous

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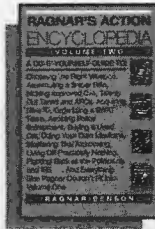


### GO FOR BROKE!

**Wealth and Happiness after Bankruptcy**

by Zane Binder

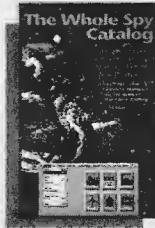
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## Well, Maybe Semi-Great...

Yours is a great publication ... I salute you for having the intestinal fortitude to report on the way things really are. Keep up the good work, and how about an article on the National Guard. Having spent five years regular Army and now six in the guard, I tell you that there are some quality soldiers in the guard. It's nothing like when I was on active duty and had to evaluate the "Nasty Guard." Thanks again.

William E. Palmer  
CPT, IN, WAARNG  
Commanding

*Sleep well, Captain — SOF is awake.*

## Crew Cuts

I'm stationed on the *U.S.S. South Carolina*, the last nuclear-powered cruiser on the East Coast. Every day I read more about troop cuts and the downsizing of the military. This frustrates me to no end because it results in less people to do the same job (last I heard we were at 72% of full manning with little relief in sight). It also results in essential supplies and equipment being put off until the money shows up. It might not seem like a big deal to those who wear khaki and leave at or before liberty call every day, but to those of us trying to keep this 22-year-old warship steaming, seemingly little things can add up. Does anybody in Washington care about the blueshirts?

EM3 Damian D. Myers  
*U.S.S. South Carolina*

*A battle loss of 20% is generally regarded as catastrophic: Just look what we have done to ourselves ...*



## Loyal Lebanese

Thank you for your care and attention, but what we really need from you is your long lasting support through the years of war. The magazine that never left

the battlefield. Now we need it to keep saying the truth about what the Christians are enduring in their every day civilian life; what the government is doing to neutralize their voices, their opposition. Their rights, not to carry weapons, but to live in a free land, like Lebanon used to be before the war. The only Christian leader who said

"no" to the government is in prison for three years now. His life is in danger because of all the fake and false trials (five till now) that he is being charged with. And of course, he is being held in a 2x3-meter cell, two floors underground and a long list of "security measures" to make him sick and weak and finally dead.

My friends, we don't want to get to that position, we need your help.

We need your voice. Thank you.

P.S. I'm afraid of not receiving *SOF* through the mail. Till now, I'm still buying it at the libraries. Thank you again.

Name Withheld

blue and red cards for "stress" and "I feel blue and unhappy." The Socialist engineers have finally gotten the upper hand. The saddest part of this scenario is that there will come a time, soon, when push will come to shove and lives will be lost for the lack of real training ...

John Mocsary  
Via E-mail

*John, didn't they tell you — those red and blue cards are to be carried into combat. They are totally bullet-proof, you know.*

## Next Best To Consumer Reports

Reference the letter wherein [the reader] states you "... use too much space and get

too technical when evaluating firearms," Mr. Brown, *SOF* is in a unique position to provide those of us who have the interests, and the background, to fully appreciate the extra effort to publish much of this rather esoteric information. A fine example can be found in the same issue as the aforementioned



## National Apology

I read in the paper that our president has decided not to offer a national apology to those whose ancestors were affected by slavery. If an apology is in order, it would be from those who "owned" slaves, not from the majority of the population whose ancestors came here after slavery had been outlawed. You cannot "apologize" for enslaving men and make it right, any more than you can "apologize" because your grandpa was a murderer.

I do have an apology for the American people, however: I hereby apologize for having voted for Bill Clinton for president.

Brian Jacobs  
Via E-mail

## Card-Carrying GIs

I was just a "grunt" during '66 — 101 Airborne Infantry.

I am just sickened by the "new" military ...

letter. Your exclusive on the AN-94 assault rifle ranks right up there with your exclusive in the '80s on the Krinkov as issued to Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan.

Were it not for *SOF*, we would have no option but to either deal with substandard and relatively inexperienced "reporters" and illiterate gun enthusiasts or fork over big bucks for foreign evaluators to lend us their opinions.

I ask that you please keep the highly technical and incisive format of your firearms evaluations and reports. There are those of us who appreciate the time and effort such reporting takes. Besides, if we can't shoot them ourselves, at least we can do so vicariously through *SOF* and not worry about whether an advertiser is threatening to pull their ads if a bad review is given. *SOF*: the next best thing to *Consumer Reports*.

Geoffrey L. Hardin, former SSG, SF (18B)  
Via E-mail





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The U.S. Seals have just completed a (uh, this is kind of classified, please don't tell any of your Russian friends) a Secret Site in Southern California (sounds like a song, doesn't it?) known as Seal City.

Said city is designed to test seals in a variety of both covert and SWAT type entry and building search/containment techniques.

Every so often the various Seal teams are pitted against each other in a direct competition to see who can get in fastest using everything from lock picks to plastic explosive.

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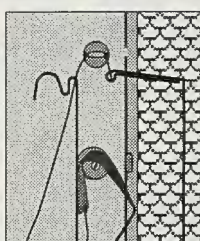
The inventor asked himself the age old question, "How can I get any door open with no damage and no picking?" and then spent years refining the original concept.

The **Mule Tool** consists of a number of pieces, the heart being a 3+ foot long rolled steel rod carefully shaped to manipulate a couple of different "tools" to accomplish what has previously been stone cold impossible.

As long as there is a tiny bit of clearance under the door to be opened the MT can slip underneath and inside. At this point a person with a few minutes practice (our secretary opened the front door in about 15 minutes of instruction/practice) can defeat: •Normal key-in-knob locks •Dead bolt locks •Hotel style inside bar locks •in-floor "club" style anti-open, anti-burglar bars •Press style panic bars.

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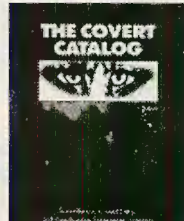
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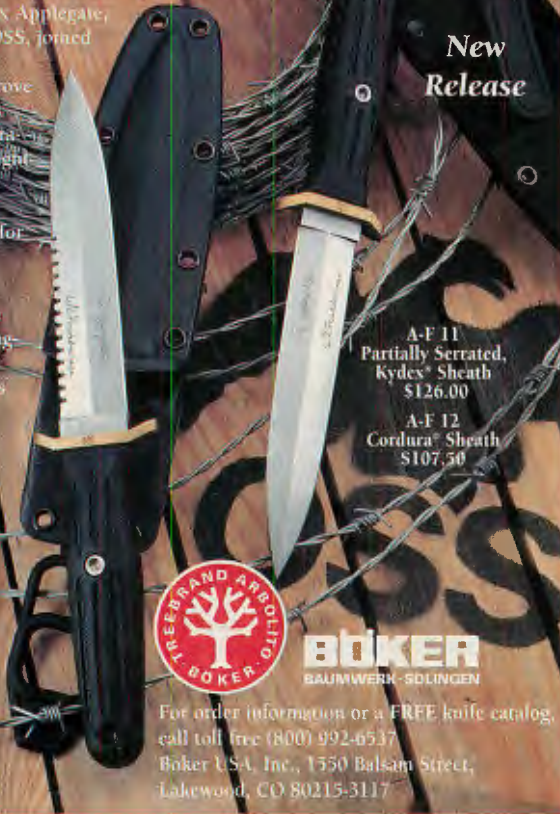
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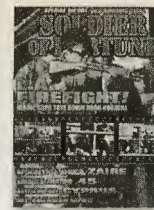
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## One World Conspiracy?

I have been a long-time reader (I bought one of the first *SOF*s when I was in high school) and a member of both the armed forces

and the National Guard for over 17 years now. I have enjoyed countless articles that *SOF* has put out, but lately reading a letter sent to "Flak" about the One World Conspiracy has gotten me madder than hell. The militia groups within and those outside the U.S., left-middle-right wing extremists, listen real close to what I am telling you.

First, to have a One World Order, the countries of the world have to get along with each other, must cooperate, collaborate, work together, join, unite, interact to make that work. When was the last time you heard of the whole world joining forces? Only in fiction do you find that.

Next is military force. In order to control the world or even a small part of it, a group would have to have a force 10 times that of all the military forces of the known world. This is because of the problem of controlling the whole area, not just a tiny part; remember world events between 1960 and 1975 in Asia.

Now, the only way that a One World Conspiracy could take place is that Earth is invaded by an outer-space, war-like race bent on destroying all (well, maybe some) life here. Or there really are outer space aliens here stealthily taking control. That would make a great movie or TV show, but somebody has already done that.

Militia groups, get real. Stop listening to crap; if you want to change things then organize into political parties. Then you can run for offices just like everyone else and find out why Washington is a mess like everyone else has.

Again I thank *SOF* for the work it has done in the past and what it can do in the future.

John Epperson  
Fort Smith, Ark.

*I sure hope you are right. I have personal doubts whether, even given the incredible technological assets "they" would now have, if a single conspiracy could encompass the world. The more common scenarios projected by conspiracy theorists have the world's military powers united under a single command, not against invading aliens, but against pockets of freemen who were resisting the program. Whether either persuasive or coercive power will ever be so concentrated as to control all existing military establishments is moot. However, even if no single group of conspirators could actually pull it off — and an armed, free and aware populace is the single best deterrent to that — this is not to say that someone(s)*

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might not try if they thought they could get away with it. Even if they failed, that "war" could cost humanity immeasurably. Human history, especially contemporary history, has been rife with demonstrable conspiracies, some of which had tremendous scope and worked for a very long time. Unless human nature changes, and there have never been any signs it will, you can be sure there are more conspiracies to come — at all levels. Whether such conspiracies are "one world" or local depends on two things: how good they are at it, and the resistance they meet from free men.



### Bird Man Of Razz-Ma-Tazz

(Several readers have written regarding the August issue "Bulletin Board" item that *SOF's* tech wonk Peter Kokalis gleaned from a United Air Lines briefing sheet,

regarding the pneumatic chicken-firing cannon the FAA allegedly used to test aircraft windshields against birds, borrowed by the Brits who fired a frozen chicken through the cab of a bullet train they were testing.)

Stories too appropriate or too funny to be true often are apocryphal — that's why we cited the source and reprinted that story tongue-in-cheek. But they're fun: My personal favorites include the story submitted to the Reader's Digest back in the 1950s when automatic transmissions were first becoming common, about the lady with a dead battery who told the helpful motorist she could be push-started, but because she had a hydraulic transmission she would have to be going 35 mph for her engine to turn — so the fellow obligingly backed up and hit her at 35 mph. The Digest received hundreds of "first person" accounts of this yarn.

Another that makes the rounds on about the same cycle as the banjo involves the trapper who found a perfectly healthy, half-grown bobcat with its paw in a leg-hold trap he had set for coyotes. As the story goes, he dumped his tool box and carefully clam-shelled it closed around the snarling bobcat, then released the trap. Tossing the tool box in the back of his pickup, he trundled toward home, stopping at the crossroads gas station. Paying for his gas, he looked back at his truck in time to see a carload of (fill in geographic or ethnic group of choice) pull up, throw his tool box in their old Buick (it's always an old Buick) and roar off. Taking his time to finish paying for his gas, the protagonist followed in the direction the Buick had taken — and found it a short piece down the road, abandoned with all four doors open.

Creative and plausible war stories also abound, the punchline usually involving VC sandals with only feet in them. ✂

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# BULLETIN BOARD



In mid-summer 1969, *SOF* honcho Lt. Col. (then Capt.) Bob Brown was with Team A-334 at Tong Le Chon, 22 clicks west of An Loc, five clicks from the Cambodian border. The camp was nominally run by RVN SF, with American SF supplying pay, logistics, air support, etc. In their charge were four companies of indigenous troops; three of montagnards and one of Cambodian Khmer Serai mercs, all paid by the U.S. Army. The Khmer Serai were an exile Cambodian political faction that left Cambodia when Sihanouk came to power, and were sent back when Lon Nol took over. As they were the best troops Lon Nol had, they were at the front of the fray and were promptly used up by the advancing communists. It is doubtful if many, or any, survive to this day.

The commander of the Khmer Serai, with whom Brown had good rapport, gave him this cloth badge when he was a short-timer — not as a souvenir, but as an award of some sort. Brown has always been curious, and has never known, what this badge represented: Savior of the Cambodian People, Permanent Sanitation Officer, or?

Recently finding it with miscellaneous papers and souvenirs, Brown decided to submit it for identification to the most eclectic group around, the *Loyale Cadre Of SOF Readers*.

Any medals-and-orders specialist who can ID this item (rigid cloth with pin back) will receive a hearty handshake at the *SOF Convention*. Write to Col. Brown at Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.

## SURPLUS M16s FOR LA.'S FINEST

In the wake of the infamous North Hollywood, Calif., Bank of America robbery/shootout (see "Firepower From The People" June '97), in which first-on-scene officers of the Los Angeles Police Department found themselves outgunned by machine gun-toting bad guys, the coppers are getting some much needed firepower. The Remington shotguns and Bushmaster M16 clones the boys in blue ended up using had been borrowed in a hurry from Bob's Gun Shop; these same guns are being auctioned off at the *SOF Convention* in Las Vegas October 1-5 for the benefit of surviving LAPD families.

However, LAPD Media Affairs representative Officer Stinson Brown confirmed to *SOF* that the department will be receiving 600 surplus U.S. Army M16 rifles, from stocks at the Anniston, Ala., Army Depot. Not only will this be a boon to LA street cops, it should bring smiles to the faces of LA taxpayers as well, since the LAPD's total outlay for the 600 guns will be only \$22.50 per rifle, to cover shipping from Anniston — only \$13,488 for the lot. —*RLS*

## WELCOME, LOYAL ALLIES

During the involvement of the U.S. Army Special Forces in the

second Indochina War (1963-67), one ethnic group from the area who steadfastly stood by their Green Beret employers were the Nungs. Skilled and tough, these ethnic Chinese were most often found fighting under SF command in high-attrition projects like Mike Force, Delta Project and MACV/SOG. When the Communists prevailed in Vietnam, many Nungs fled to Hong Kong. When Hong Kong reverted to Chinese Communist control on 30 June, Nungs who had not yet been allowed by British colonial authorities to emigrate were faced with forced repatriation to Vietnam. Having fought fiercely and loyally for the USSF against the Vietnamese Communists during the war, they and their families could expect no mercy on their return.

But, Special Forces wasn't about to abandon their old comrades. Once the Special Forces Association, the SF vets organization with chapters around the world, got word of the Nungs' plight in Hong Kong they went right to work. Congressmen, especially Jesse Helms, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, were deluged with letters encouraging help for these loyal former comrades. DoD sent representatives to Hong Kong to interview the Nungs, and received E-mail verification regarding the status and identity of individuals. SF Association volunteers went to Hong Kong to assist in identifying and processing the Nungs for admission into the United States.

Like a hot extraction under fire, those Nungs who could be identified as having served with Special Forces, and their families, were at the last minute airlifted from Hong Kong and are now being resettled in various parts of the United States, under sponsorship of local Special Forces Association chapters.

Extraction complete. Regroup and continue mission: The mission now is aid and resettlement. You can help with donations of food, clothes, money, housing, training, jobs. By the time you read this, most will have been resettled with SF or American Nung families; what they will need, and where they will need it, when you

Special Forces Association members and guests at June's national convention in Colorado Springs, Colo., gave a standing ovation to the local "Pike's Peak Highlanders" (phone: 719-481-2155 or 495-3649) after a performance that included *Amazing Grace* and *Ballad of the Green Berets*. Maj. Gen. William P. Tangey, commander of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C., was guest speaker at the convention banquet. Former SF troopers interested in membership can call Jimmy Dean, phone: 910-485-5433.



Marty Kutus/SOF



read this, will vary. For the latest poop, contact project officer for the Nungs: Col. (Ret.) Jack Isler, phone: 619-324-5114, or Jimmy Dean at SFA Headquarters: 910-485-5433.

### SOUTH AFRICAN MERC CONTROLS

Of the most successful exports from South Africa in recent years have been military training and support services offered by firms such as Executive Outcomes, of Hennopsmeer. Criticism has been leveled at EO — primarily by their clients' foes, as they have proven very good at what they do — for their activities in Angola, Sierra Leone, New Guinea and other countries.

Largely in response to such criticism, the South African Parliament will be debating a proposed bill intended to establish control over South African nationals or companies offering "foreign military assistance." Although EO denies participating in combat operations, observers feel that EO personnel have "taken part in combat" as pilots, tactical planners or field commanders.

The proposed legislation is being held forth as a control over the export of skills, not as a total ban on "foreign military assistance." Foreign military assistance, however, is defined quite broadly in the bill, to include military-related services such as training, logistics, personnel, intelligence, financial or operational support, medical or para-medical services and procurement — even personal security for "individuals involved in armed conflict" or "any other action that has the result of furthering the interests of a group in armed conflict."

An individual or company desiring to offer such services would have to apply to the National Conventional Arms Control Committee, the agency now responsible for arms export controls. The NCACC would recommend to the Minister of Defense whether authorization should be granted: to offer military assistance without MoD authorization would be a criminal offense, subject to a 10-year jail sentence and stiff fines. According to the proposed bill, such authorization would not be granted if it would:



- be in conflict with international law,
- support or encourage terrorism in any manner,
- contribute to the escalation of a regional conflict,
- endanger peace by "introducing destabilizing military capabilities" or by "negatively influencing the balance of power" in a region,
- result in infringement of human rights and fundamental freedoms
- prejudice the interests of South Africa,
- or be "unacceptable for any other reason".

Meanwhile, a report in London's *The Sunday Times* states that Mr. Eben Barlow, founder of Executive Outcomes, has resigned as chairman and has been replaced by Nick van den Bergh.

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### COLT TO BUY FN HERSTAL

Colt Manufacturing has signed a letter of intent to buy French Giat Industry's 92% holding of the Belgian company FN Herstal. Colt's parent company, New Colt Holding, is also negotiating to buy the 8% of FN owned by the Walloon regional government, to make it sole owner. This would make Colt a major leading small-arms company and give it rights to the Winchester and Browning trade names: It would also give Colt a foothold in the European market.

The buyout is subject to approval, by the Walloon regional government, of a restructuring plan at FN Herstal that is scheduled to be completed by the time we go to press. Giat had acquired FN seven years ago, but had been unable to turn the struggling Belgian company around. Sources reported losses last year of up to 2 billion French francs (\$330 million).

### TIANANMEN - SQUARED

In a story that apparently escaped the major news outlets, *Gun Week* reports that the communist Chinese government arrested 590,000 people and seized 1.2 million guns in an anti-gun sweep this past spring. The weapons confiscations were reportedly designed to "avoid trouble" as Chinese authorities were intensifying their campaign on violent crime before Hong Kong reverted to Chinese control on 30 June 1997. Some 14,000 dance halls, saunas, massage parlors, and other "sex establishments" were also closed down. What this might have to do with the reassimilation of Hong Kong was not mentioned in reports.

### NEW, LETHAL COB WEAPON FOR MARINES?

Do recent developments indicate that efforts in the field of miniaturization may have resulted in a deadly new hand-held weapon a mere 3/8-inch long? U.S.M.C. Major General Patrick Howard has recommended that a gunnery sergeant, videotaped in 1993 administering the new weapon (known as the Badge, Jump Qualification Mk. I, Hand-operated and air-cooled) to bare-chested Marine paratroopers, be discharged. Nine others involved in the incident will "receive counseling." Treatment for PTSD to follow?

### NONE; 5,000; 20,000; 80,000 - 100,000 [AND COUNTING?]

As we went to press last issue, we recounted an *Army Times* report in which Pentagon sources were quoted as saying that up to 80,000 U.S. GIs may have been exposed to low levels of toxic chemicals in March 1991, when U.S. troops demolished the Iraqi chemical-weapons stockpile at Khamisiyah, Iraq — up from the previous high estimate of 20,000. The DoD had conducted a test at Dugway Proving Ground,



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## GUN CONTROL

Utah, the end of May to reconstruct the scenario at Khamisiyah where chemical weapons such as sarin nerve agent and mustard gas — and possibly other agents — were stored, and destroyed, in open pits.

The word now is that the 80,000 were in addition to the previously cited 20,000, bringing the total number of those possibly exposed to 100,000. Most of the troops were from the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, and VII Corps.

Gulf War vets who believe they may have been exposed, or who have any health problems associated with their service in the Gulf War, are being urged by the Pentagon to enroll in the DoD Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program by calling 800-796-9699; they can also sign up for the Department of Veterans Affairs Persian Gulf War Registry by calling 800-749-8387.

### INTERSERVICE RIVALRY?

Responding to USAF-sponsored studies that claim the cost of maintaining B-2 bombers is less than that of an aircraft carrier, a new Navy point paper notes that carriers have been used in 10 separate international crises in the past four years, while there has been no use of B-1 or B-2 bombers; aging BUFs have been used only once. The paper did note however, that the B-2 did fly "missions" in the 1997 Rose Bowl parade, and many air shows. *Ahem*. Now, let us consider the number of times that M16 tailgunners from the Army and Marines have been under hostile fire during the same period ...

### TOLD YOU SO

As *SOF's* ranking technophobe, this writer, who has steadfastly maintained that computers, and the Internet in particular, were the tools of the devil, and that cyberspace was the devil's playground, would like to quote without comment from the 16 July 1997 edition of *Jane's Defence Weekly*:

"The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), whose Southern Bloc is believed to control 30,000ha of coca plants, will host a by-invitation-only workshop in Costa Rica on drug-trafficking [*as in, how-to, Ed.*] this month.

"The FARC's International Commission has dispatched some invitations to Colombian organizations via the Internet for the conference.

"Sessions will include the topics of trafficking, production, marketing and consumption.

"The Colombian guerrilla group also maintains a website. ..."

### SENATE REJECTS CLOSURES

In a 66 to 33 vote, the U.S. Senate has rejected a DoD proposal to hold two more rounds of base closures in 1999 and 2001. The House of Representatives also did not include the proposal in its FY98 defense budget. ✕

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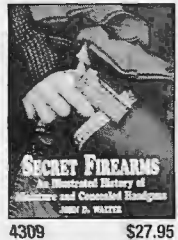
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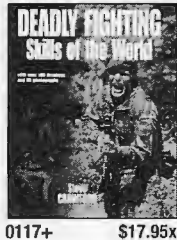
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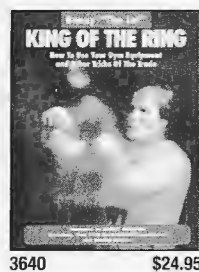
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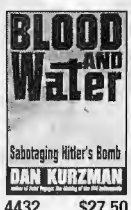
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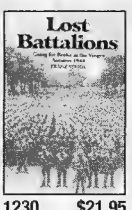
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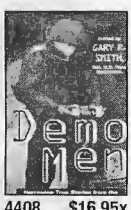
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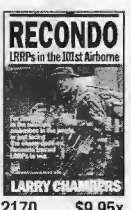
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## Down On The Border

President Clinton's visit to Mexico this spring was not exactly the "we're all amigos" love-in that some of our news media reported. Curiously ignored in some national reports — but meriting headlines in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California — was that Jose Q. Public was less than overjoyed at the gringo president's visit. There actually were numerous public demonstrations and protests, the most flamboyant being in Mexico City (where, as *SOF* readers know, soldiers are used as cops).

Face it, the Big Media in New York City and Washington, urbanized and arrogant — much like many people in Congress and the White House — do not consider the U.S./Mexico border to be of major importance. (The glitzy, empty-headed world of "high fashion" gets more coverage.) But as law-abiding folks on both sides of the border fear, problems there will only get worse before they get better.

During his first state visit to Mexico City, Clinton signed agreements with President Ernesto Zedillo for creation of joint strategies against drug smuggling, illegal immigration, and border-area crime. The *Los Angeles Times* called these issues "sensitive." That's an understatement, considering the political climate between these two neighbors.

Mexicans are disenchanted with the North American Free Trade Agreement, which has not turned out to be an economic blessing (on

either side of the border). Instead of the promised free flow of commerce between countries, NAFTA is a mind-boggling boondoggle that even seasoned politicians are having a hard time explaining away.

An early point of contention in putting NAFTA into effect was the generally poor condition of Mexican semi-tractor trailer trucks on U.S. highways; safety inspections caused massive traffic jams at border crossings. Already weary of footing the bill for illegal aliens pouring across the border (basically, at the implied invitation of the Clinton administration), the border states clearly had had enough.

To be fair, it must be acknowledged that the Clinton administration inherited NAFTA from the Bush administration. Further, it was President Bush who formally classified international narco-trafficking as a national-security threat. Thus, the active-duty U.S. military entered the "War on Drugs" through Operation Alliance and Joint Task Force-6, both headquartered at Fort Bliss, Texas.

The United States yearly consumes tens of billions of dollars in illegal drugs. Much of it enters this country from Mexico. The contraband is floated across the Rio Grande onto U.S. soil, hidden aboard vehicles, carried on aircraft, and trundled across by illegal aliens. The Clinton administration's certification that Mexico (riddled with law-enforcement corruption) has "fully cooperated" in anti-drug efforts — while Colombia has not — is controversial.

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Drug-interdiction efforts in the Southwest are complicated considerably by illegal immigration. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has estimated there are some 2.7 million illegal Mexican immigrants in the United States. Although a fair number undoubtedly were packing illegal drugs as "mules," most were seeking work in service industries, factories, and in agriculture.

A study by the University of Houston, released in August, report-

Marty Kutus/SOF



Border Patrol officer and K-9 inspect passenger bus for illegal aliens and drugs, north of Laredo, Texas. They often find both.

ed that 1,185 "undocumented migrants" died trying to slip across the Southwest border in 1993-6. Of them, 776 drowned in the Rio Grande, between Texas and Mexico. Illegal movement across the border is a two-way street, however. The U.S. government has acknowledged that great quantities of firearms are smuggled southward, as well as stolen automobiles. These are desperate times.

A second-hand Mercury car with tags from the Mexican state of Tamaulipas pulls in line at the U.S. Border Patrol inspection station

on I-35 — "NAFTA's superhighway" — a few miles north of Laredo, Texas. The driver is a young woman with her 5-year-old daughter. A uniformed Border Patrol agent approaches. His K-9 alerts to a scent: several tightly bundled packages of high-grade Mexican marijuana are stashed in the engine's air-cleaner compartment instead of the filter. The woman and her daughter are taken into custody. It's almost a daily occurrence in these parts.

There are shoot-outs along the heavily armed border — more than most U.S. citizens realize. Mexican drug gangs are well-armed and vicious. Border Patrol field officers, primarily concerned with illegal immigration, once packed 6-shot .357 Magnums in the wheelgun tradition of the Old West. The patrol recently switched to 11-round, .40-caliber semiauto sidearms. Potshots commonly are fired from the Mexican side at Border Patrol officers as harassment and intimidation.

Meanwhile, units of active-duty U.S. troops have been deployed along the border in surveillance ops supporting law-enforcement drug interdiction. State and federal law-enforcement agencies commonly seek military assistance — training, equipment, or manpower — through JTF-6. Although the troops are receiving some desert-tactical training along the arid border, and are forbidden from making arrests, they arguably are doing law-enforcement work.

A recent tragedy speaks volumes about the complexity of efforts to secure the Southwest border. A Mexican-American teenager in the tiny, Texas border town of Redford, who was described by friends and family as a good kid, was killed on private property near his home — by U.S. military gunfire. (See "World Sitrep," this issue.) The investigation pitted two highly respected organizations — the U.S. Marine Corps and the Texas Rangers — as adversaries. A grand jury in August returned a "no bill" in favor of the Marine who shot the armed Texan.

If all of this isn't bad enough, there remains the not-unreasonable fear that Mexico is on the verge of civil war.

What are the answers to these big-picture questions? *SOF* editors don't claim to have any. But given Clinton's lousy record on military and federal law-enforcement issues, we suspect he doesn't have any, either. It's a long way from Washington to the border, amigo. ✕

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# ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

## WILDERNESS SURVIVAL

This writer, raised where "wilderness" was three steps out the back door, has always maintained that wilderness survival was 10% gear and 90% *state of mind*. By state of mind we do not mean your morale, although that can be a factor, but rather those "tools" you carry in your head — the knowledge of wilderness living techniques you always have with you. Aboriginal natives anywhere on the globe did not "survive," but simply and matter-of-factly maintained a quite satisfactory existence in the "wilderness" because they knew how. You can, too, *if you know how*.



You can glean a lot of information and master many techniques from myriad books on the topic, but having an aboriginal pappy or other mentor to teach you at his elbow would be the ideal way to learn. Next best might be some of the classes available, although they tend to be expensive and may not be available in your area, and some are little more than classes for yuppies on how to operate a can opener.

Maybe the best option would be a video series, inexpensive, of course, by an instructor who has several decades of survival experience behind him, and who is used to teaching hands-on wilderness survival at the university level. Procedures that have a function of technique are best learned visually, and video may well be even better than a one-on-one course, because you can re-view topics until you get them straight, and there's no problem missing Point B while you take notes on Point A.

Good news.

Dr. Ron Hood, of Hoods Woods Wilderness Video Productions, has spend decades traveling the globe, gleaning survival techniques from the locals, and he has 25 years' experience teaching wilderness survival at two major universities. But good credentials don't make a good survival instructor: *good information does*, and that's precisely what Ron offers in a four-part video series entitled *The Woodmaster*, more than five hours of concentrated and *practical* instruction for only \$84 plus \$4.50 shipping.

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Available from Hoods Woods Wilderness Video Productions, Dept. SOF, Box 383, Lake Hughes, CA 93532; or order toll free: 888-257-BUGS. You can also visit them online at [www.survival.com](http://www.survival.com), or meet them in person at the SOF Expo in Las Vegas October 1-5.



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tour of a woman's hand, the Thorn maximizes the effect of a defensive punch against an attacker, by concentrating the force of the punch in a very small area. Its triangular shape is easy to find in a purse or pocket, and it does not hit the knee when car keys are in the ignition. Keys may be used without removing the Thorn from the hand, and vice versa.

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### J-B LIVES

Frank Brownell, of Brownell's, Inc., wrote to let us know they have been selected by Jim Brobst to continue production of J-B Bore Cleaning Compound. Jim, who has been producing J-B for 30 years and now chooses to rest a bit on his laurels,



couldn't have picked a better company than Brownell's to carry on. This writer has dealt with Brownell's for more than 30 years and outfits to deal with simply don't get any better than Brownell's. Brownell's has a wish book with nearly 20,000 accessories, tools and supplies for gun cranks: they ship with blinding speed and only carry good merchandise (quite often, items or supplies you can only find with them).

J-B Bore Cleaning Compound is just such a supply item: It removes powder and metal fouling like no other product this writer has found, especially gunk like cuprometal jacket material in the bores of older GI rifles you are trying to get "on the paper." Bench-resters swear by it; it's an old trade secret of gunsmiths for guns brought in with the complaint "she just don't shoot straight anymore ..." We've not tested every bore cleaner on the market, so can't flatly say it's the best there is ... but we've tried enough and always come back to J-B to say that J-B is as good as it gets. And you can bet Brownell's will continue production faithful to the original product in every respect, just because that's the kind of folks they are.

J-B is only \$5.95 from your local dealer, or you can order direct from Brownell's (add shipping for four ounces), Dept. SOF, 200 S. Front St., Montezuma, IA 50171; phone: 515-623-5401; fax: 515-623-3896. ✕



# Now, You Can Destroy Any Attacker Using Never-Before-Seen "Killing" Techniques

## Creator of Official U.S. Navy SEAL Combat System Releases Brutal New Gun & Knife Sections Of His Instructor Qualification Fighting Series

Can you disarm a man holding a knife to your throat? What if a car-jacker sticks a gun through your window — and your wife, girlfriend, or child is sitting beside you?

In an often brutal yet professionally direct approach, Jerry Peterson's new video series shows you how to destroy these attackers, while taking you to the ultimate level of fighting.

The culmination of a 2-year transformation from actual SCARS military archive techniques, his Instructor Qualification Series offers you the opportunity to learn what until now was taught to military Special Operations forces (SEALS, Rangers, Green Berets, etc.).

It's been called "the most brutally effective fighting system ever seen."

Before explaining more about this system, here's how Jerry Peterson, the creator of this system, became the first — and only — civilian ever to standardize, license and teach a hand-to-weapon fighting system to the United States military.

In 1989, Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), the group which controls all SEAL activity, was looking for ways to standardize hand-to-weapon combat techniques. After an exhaustive review, they had rejected every single martial art form in the world.

They found each completely unworkable in combat-oriented fighting situations where SEALS were in full gear, carrying 100# packs, and often knee-deep in water.

### Amazing Scientific System

Then a SEAL NSWC officer (with black belts in 3 martial arts) saw Jerry Peterson's scientific fighting system. What he stumbled on wasn't martial arts. In fact it was unlike anything he'd ever seen before.

The SEAL officer watched in disbelief as a class of inexperienced students threw real punches for virtually 1 full hour, never repeating the same sequences. In one session he witnessed more fighting than most martial arts students see in a year.

Later, two top brass at NSWC saw the officer demonstrating moves he'd learned. But intrigue turned to doubt when they learned the originator was an ex-Army enlisted man.

Still they met with Jerry, as much out of admiration for his Vietnam record as anything (he spent 15 months as lead point for Charlie Company, the 173rd Airborne — one of the most decorated units of the war). As Vietnam vets, the SEAL officers figured Jerry at least would understand their needs.

### Easily Defeats Decorated SEAL

But they were totally unprepared for what happened. To prove his system, Jerry Peterson and a highly-decorated SEAL Officer (and at 240, 100 pounds heavier than Jerry) went toe-to-toe — but at half speed. To the Officer's amazement he was instantly disabled and dropped to his knees.

Only then did he realize — had he not been talked out of going full speed by others who knew the awesome power of Jerry Peterson's system, his false confidence in his martial arts training and in his sheer size advantage would have left him with an arm broken as easily as a match stick!

In 5 short minutes these SEAL officers — men who had seen everything in the way of brutal fight-

ing, and who had virtually unlimited budgets to develop the SEALS into the world's best — were blown away by Jerry Peterson's *Autokinematic™* fighting system.

### Officially Required SEAL Training

Following a pilot program at Command headquarters all SEALS began receiving this training. Still, hardheaded, cocky, non-believing SEALS, many with extensive martial arts backgrounds, constantly tested Jerry:

□ SEALS are the most proficient combat swimmers in the world. Yet 40-year-old Jerry (who wasn't a particularly good swimmer) "drowned" SEAL after SEAL in training. His scientific principles apply on any terrain.

□ SEALS are trained to run 20 miles in soft sand. But Jerry (who really wasn't in great shape) had them gasping just 5 minutes into his first workouts while he participated effortlessly. He used breathing techniques others had never seen (techniques he can teach you in minutes).

□ In Europe Jerry challenged a deployed SEAL platoon to pin him against a wall. All thought it a joke. Yet he escaped — from the grasp of 14 of the most proficient fighting men in the world (then showed it was no trick — simply physics, and easily learned).

Today SEALS use all these scientific techniques and many more. Since 1989, Navy SEALS go through a minimum of 40 and up to 600 rigorous hours of Jerry Peterson's training prior to deployment (often in intense, 24-hour a day sessions).

### Top Government Officials Amazed

His system was demonstrated to Navy Admirals, a 4-Star General, and Congressional leaders — as well as the Secretary of the Navy and the U.S. Secretary of Defense!

Jerry was even called in prior to Desert Storm to brief the military on using *Neural Offensive Linguistics™* (a cornerstone of his system, it defines a mind set which eliminates all defensive thinking, allowing anyone, even you, to make instantaneously correct decisions in the midst of any hostile environment).

### Devastating Power Gives You An Unfair Advantage

In his *HCS* video course Jerry Peterson introduced you to his revolutionary system.

Now, with the publication of *Jerry Peterson's SCAR-HCS Hand-To-Weapon* fighting system, Jerry leads you into the never-before-seen world of brutal, no-holds-barred gun, knife and club fighting — material you've never seen (unless you were in elite Special Operation forces).

You'll learn the same hand-to-weapon techniques, the same mental approaches, the same "kill" sets Jerry developed for over 200 SEAL SCARS instructors. (These SCARS instructors now teach this system to all branches of the military Spec Op forces — Army, Navy and Air Force).

You'll know how to defeat, seriously disable and, when necessary, kill anyone threatening your life or the life of a loved one or friend!

### Guaranteed To Work In Your Most Nightmarish Hostile Situation

Everything in his system was proven in the most intense war lab of the past 30 years — Vietnam!

But this isn't a course to impress friends at your Karate studio. The Instructor Qualification Series is Jerry Peterson's complete professional fighting system.

And professional fighting has but one objective: to defeat an attacker incredibly fast. In 29 years Jerry's longest fight lasted but 5 seconds!

This system is only for those who need a powerful yet amazingly simple system (simple because it's based on quickly-mastered scientific principles not a difficult art form) to protect them in life-threatening situations.

No Navy SEAL has ever lost in hand-to-hand combat when correctly applying Jerry's system! And they never will (nor will you) because ... his system is undefeatable!

### This Totally Integrated System Enables You To Destroy Any Attacker — With Absolutely No Fear Or Hesitation!

Cheap imitators advertise fighter after fighter after fighter — a hodgepodge of unrelated, nonscientific moves. Now they even lie, hoping to con you into believing SEALS would lose to these guys. But they know. No one beats a Peterson-trained SEAL.

These 'wanna-bes' teach one move if an attacker swings a fist at you, another if he's got a knife.

But Jerry Peterson's scientific system teaches you why you MUST use the exact same techniques — with a weapon or without! What everyone else teaches is wrong. Just ask the SEALS!

The imitators claim they've trained Navy SEALS. But Jerry Peterson is the sole creator of the official hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon combat fighting system used by the SEALS today.

He's the only civilian with a Naval Special Warfare course number (*SCARS-CFC# K-431-0096*) plus a new \$2.5 million military facility predicated solely on his SCARS training.

The Navy SEAL 'wanna-be' trainers? They've got nothing — no official status, no course number.

### Free Special Report Reveals GUN And KNIFE Fighting Secrets

Jerry Peterson's system is brutal. It has to be. Yet it's surprisingly easy to learn. It requires NO athletic ability, NO speed, NO conditioning.

And because his videos offer an unprecedented 3 camera angles (including a new overhead shot), you can learn this scientific system in just days; specific techniques often in just minutes.

Jerry has created a Free special report revealing the amazing details about his scientific weapons fighting system — the system which has made the Navy SEALS an undefeatable fighting force.

It's easy to get your free copy. Just call

**1-800-600-1420**

24-hours for a Free recorded message to get your Free report. International, call 602-921-8533.

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Official SEAL SCARS-CFC  
Creator Jerry Peterson



# I Was There

Text & Photos by Phil Ferraro

## WEEKEND WAR(RIOR)

Locals E & E out of town with wounded buddy. If you're shot, it matters not how large the conflict is. (Inset) *Coup d'etal* or sale-day at K-MART? A T-54/55 all loaded up with no place to go.

Hostilities in Cambodia had been brewing for quite some time. After the U.N.-sponsored elections in May 1993, a coalition government emerged between the Royalist Funcinpec party and First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranafiddh, and the formerly communist Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of former Khmer Rouge, Second Prime Minister Hun Sen. Over the past several months both sides had been importing weapons and shuffling troops around to strengthen their positions.

It started off as a typical Saturday morning in Phnom Penh, sun coming up over the Mekong and Tonle Sap rivers to the east, taxis clogging the streets and the early morning markets bustling with activity.

At about 0630, I departed my home to head to Cambodia's one and only golf course for a round with some of Cambodia's top generals and the opportunity to be updated on the current military/political situations.

The 30-kilometer drive down National Road 4 was uneventful, even a bit quieter than normal. When I arrived at the course it was deserted except for a couple of other expatriates who work in Phnom Penh. We decided that something must have come up and the generals weren't going to make it, so we went ahead without them. By the time we reached the 14<sup>th</sup> hole, one of the driver/translators came running up breathlessly yelling that large-scale fighting with tanks and artillery had broken out in Phnom Penh. My reaction was "OK, fine, let's finish the round and then go check it out. If



they're fighting in Phnom Penh, we're probably safer out here than in town." But the others in the group were scared shitless so we decided to head back.

Naturally, I was nominated as the point man, the others would follow behind at a "safe" distance, obviously not clued in on the range of an RPG-7, or 82mm mortar. I made a few phone calls, found the locations and extent of the fighting, then laid out primary and alternate routes for our return to Phnom Penh. All had cellular phones for en route communications.

As we were approaching Phnom Penh International Airport, I stopped to ask the six soldiers at the roadblock if we could pass. Within seconds, they dove into a drainage ditch alongside the road and opened fire on a rapidly approaching 5-ton truck with a rear-mounted Soviet 12-tube multiple rocket launcher. I yanked the four-wheel drive of my Jeep Cherokee into action and sped cross country to my alternate route. As we were tooling into town, we passed several Czech-made BRDMs and Soviet T-54 tanks overflowing with troops heading out to shut down all roads into and out of the city.

Shelling had begun in several parts of the city and locals were darting everywhere

in mass panic. Our convoy of three vehicles split and each made its way home. My house was located directly behind the First Prime Minister's residence, an area that normally had excellent security. I know members of the security forces and they usually wave me right through the checkpoints.

I headed straight for my abode wheeling down roads that bypassed the major areas of fighting. As I was cruising down my street, I approached a checkpoint. In the chaos of the fighting, many troops and civilians had been killed and soldiers were either wearing armbands from both sides or wearing no identifying insignia. I was halted by six young, hard-eyed, well-armed soldiers, two pointing their RPGs directly at my front, the others targeting me with their AK-47s. One attempted to yank open the locked doors of my vehicle. When he couldn't, he became excited and triggered a burst from his AK at the ground a foot from the Jeep. I got out and explained to them in Khmer that I lived just down the street and was going home. I was no threat to them. This further enraged him and he unloaded several rounds next to my feet.

I became quite upset and the shooter cooled down. As usual, I was carrying my trusty, but *inaccurate* Makarov 9mm. As I pulled it, their weapons, including the RPGs, were snapped to eye level just feet away. I slowly handed over my pistol as a gift, to them a major deal since, normally, only senior officers carry sidearms. Fences mended, they happily waved me through. Later, these troops were moved into position to attack the First Prime Minister's house.



I arrived home and all was normal, except for my ferocious guard dog cowering beneath the bed.

A friend arrived to talk over the day's events when the attack on the First Prime Minister's residence kicked off. Mortar rounds scored several direct hits. My normally secure neighborhood was now under intense attack. There was nothing for us to do but break open a couple of cold beers, sit back and wait it out. An RPG round took out the power transformer station a block away cutting all power in the area but, fortunately, I had just topped off my 25 KVA generator with enough fuel to run for a couple of days. My food supplies were adequate for the two of us, but I worried that the beer wouldn't last. As we sat on the front porch, debris from the fallout of the mortar rounds belting the Prime Minister's house showered upon my concrete roof.

After the mortars ceased, the CPP forces mounted their ground attack by pounding the target with RPGs and small-arms fire for most of the afternoon.

Simultaneous attacks were occurring all over town. You could see black smoke billowing high over the city from multiple locations. Surprisingly, the mobile phone system that I subscribe to, stayed up and running the entire time and allowed us to send and receive sitreps throughout the fighting.

By 1700, the combat had died down. After nearly an hour of almost no sounds of battle, we ventured out to assess the situation. Certain areas were closed off. T-54s and BRDMs blocked the roads. We did make it to our favorite watering holes. The manager and hangers-on were shocked to see us, and immediately allowed us in. We updated them on the situation, had a good steak dinner and then headed home before dark.

Apparently, the forces on both sides, secured the positions they had captured and were digging in for the night. Periodically, throughout the night, we could hear bursts of automatic-weapons fire and small-scale firefights although Cambodians are known to disdain night ops. At 0530, Sunday, 6 July, we were awakened by sustained mortar fire and, at sun up, the ground assault resumed with fighting continuing sporadically until 1600 when the remaining forces loyal to the First Prime Minister hoisted white flags.

Some termed it a *coup d'etat*. To me, it was just a weekend war.

By Wednesday, 9 July, things were again functioning and approaching normalcy, minus several missing (presumed executed or KIA) senior Funcinpec political party members and field-grade officers.

The best part? The generals I tee-off with were on the winning side.

*Phil Ferraro retired as a Sergeant Major from the U.S. Army Special Forces. When not dodging mortar rounds or doing his Tiger Woods thing hustling flag-rank officers, he works as a security director, and attempts to keep fellow American ex-pats on the straight and narrow. ☒*



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Crafted of all steel construction the Mark II is much more durable than Walther-like imitations with frames made of aluminum.

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# WORLD SITREP

1

## UNITED STATES

**Pentagon put-down:** The B-2 strategic bomber is not as radar-stealthy as touted due to unreliable "low-observable" systems, according to high-level DoD assessment. Air Force to pay total-program cost of nearly \$45 billion for 21 of the flying-wing aircraft. • **Wants the Osprey:** U.S. Special Operations Command pushes for delivery of 50 specially equipped CV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft NLT 2006, with acquisition beginning in 2000. Air Force would foot most of bill: nearly \$4.1 billion. (Marines eventually to acquire 360 MV-22s.) • **Army researchers** devise means to "hide" encrypted data in background noise of transmissions of commonplace graphical info; 2 more years of lab work needed to perfect methodology. • **Post-Cold War priorities:** CIA to focus on "hardest targets" in international drug trafficking, terrorism, and weapons proliferation — Director Tenet. • **Shooting investigated:** Joint Task Force-6 suspends use of active-duty troops in Southwest border-surveillance ops (in support of law-enforcement drug interdiction) after May's shooting death of Texas resident. Grand jury probes actions of Marine artillery corporal, senior of 4-man team, who shot an 18-year-old goatherder wielding a .22-caliber rifle.

2

## RUSSIA

**New ICBM:** Following 4 successful test launches, regiment of SS-27 Topol ("Poplar")-M missiles is slated for activation at end of year. Mobile missile uses solid fuel, has 3 stages, single warhead, and estimated range of 10,500 kilometers. (Strategic Rocket Force arsenal still has 3,535 nuclear warheads.) • **Military woes, continued:** More than 4,000 soldiers deserted from army in last 5 years; during one week in July, 230 disappeared — Interfax news agency. • The Cossacks have regained official military status, lost after Russian revolution, upon order of President Yeltsin. Cossacks will serve as border guards and in special police units. • **Rumblings in Chechnya:** Guerrilla leader Raduyev refuses to obey Chechen President Maskhadov's orders to disband his 1,000-man force, saying he will not demobilize until Russia officially recognizes Chechnya's independence (which Moscow refuses to do).

8

## NEW ZEALAND

Defense minister says military funding likely to increase somewhat in next budget. Last year's defense spending totaled (U.S.) \$1.7 billion; significant cuts have occurred since 1990. (Australia has chided New Zealand as a weak partner in regional security.) • **Gender study:** Defense Force commissions study on progress of women's integration into military.

7

## JAPAN

**Could happen at home:** Recalling 1996's guerrilla seizure of ambassador's residence in Peru, and its commando rescue (which held Japan spellbound), National Police Agency plans upgrade of its Special Assault Team: training with military in special tactics, assignment of its own helicopters, and possible issuance of new weapons.

9

## SRI LANKA

Local special-forces troops and the navy's Special Boat Squadron are resuming maritime and land-warfare training with their counterparts in the U.S. Navy SEALs and Army Special Forces. Joint training was suspended last year in part because of an international propaganda campaign by the LTTE movement just before the U.S. election. • **Not just on land:** Navy patrol boats increasingly engage "Tamil Tigers" (LTTE): 7-hour battle this summer off northeastern coast drew 24 rebel boats; 2 were sunk, killing 20 crewmen.

10

## COLOMBIA

U.S. ambassador says 35% of ELN and nearly 70% of FARC rebels are involved in drug-trafficking, and that U.S. military's anti-drug aid can be used against such "narco-guerrillas." • **Unholy alliance:** ELN and FARC now working together: combined force of 150 rebels overran rural base occupied by army platoon.

11

## PANAMA

**Border patrol:** Force of 1,200 police officers now patrols south-eastern border against incursions by Colombian rebels. • U.S. federal appeals court rejects request, for new trial, by jailed ex-General Noriega.

13

## ALGERIA

**In the name of Allah?** Islamic-fundamentalist insurgents have killed at least 400 people since June's parliamentary elections. Some 2,000 people have been killed this year in car-bombings and massacres in rural villages. The insurgency began 5½ years ago.

14

## NAMIBIA

**No friends in high places:** Ex-rebels of the South-West Africa People's Organization complain that the government they helped put into power in Windhoek has abandoned them, and that they are unable to find jobs in the stagnant economy. (The government then bans unauthorized demonstrations.)



3

**CHINA**

**No reason for high hopes:** Even as Beijing and Washington increase diplomatic and military contact, Chinese officials denounce U.S. attempts to change their national politics — particularly, human rights and democracy — and warn that efforts to “Westernize” China will fail. (A point of contention: Washington’s ban on arms sales/military-tech transfers to China after 1989’s Tiananmen Square massacre.) • **Tehran souring on Beijing?** A \$4.5-billion sale of Chinese military equipment to Iran might have fallen through, mostly over funding (Iran previously has bartered with oil) and from dissatisfaction with Chinese arms, Western analysts say. Cultural differences might be an additional reason.

4

**UKRAINE**

**Scud stalemate:** Washington and Kiev wrangle over Ukraine’s refusal to destroy Scud-B missile inventory, believed to be more than 100 inherited from Soviet Union, and its (possible) technical capability for upgrades. Washington paid Kiev millions in recent past for destruction of other missiles, including ICBMs; now fears sale of Scuds to pariah nations. (SecDef Cohen’s staff complains issue is further complicated by State Department’s lead role in negotiations.) • Foreign minister says Ukraine is willing to deploy peacekeeping force in Abkhazia (Georgia’s breakaway province, site of 1992-3 civil war) if Moscow withdraws its several thousand troops stationed there.

5

**CAMBODIA**

**Repercussions from overthrow:** Co-Premier Hun Sen’s July *coup d’etat*, which toppled Prime Minister Ranariddh’s royalist party, brings international responses: Australia suspends \$1.5 million in (previously planned) military aid; Association of Southeast Asian Nations postpones Cambodia’s membership until end of ’97 or later. Hun Sen rejects ASEAN offer of mediation. (See “I Was There,” this issue.)

6

**INDONESIA**

**Enjoying economic growth, but ...** Citing likelihood of increased insurgency through 2001, Jakarta plans \$1-billion rise in annual military funding; 8,000-man increase in active-duty manpower, to 243,000 soldiers; a more than doubling of special-forces units; and, creation of 192,000-man national police force. Navy wants 127-ship fleet, including 4 second-hand German diesel-electric submarines.



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**ALBANIA**

Five months after southern Albania erupts in near-civil war, Italian-led peacekeeping force of 7,000 troops, from 8 nations, begins withdrawal. (See “From Bad To Worse,” July *SOF*.)

15

**KUWAIT**

**Time heals wounds:** Government here is restoring full diplomatic relations with Yemen. Ties were severed in 1991, after Yemen refused to join anti-Iraq coalition in Gulf War.

16

**SAUDI ARABIA**

Military successfully test-fires first domestically made surface-to-surface missile, whose range is up to 62 kilometers (with conventional HE warhead). Saudi strategic arsenal previously comprised some 40 Chinese-made SSMs purchased about 10 years ago.

8

World Sitrep is compiled in part from the biweekly newsletter *For Your Eyes Only: An Open Intelligence Summary of Current Military Affairs*. Published by Tiger Publications (P.O. Box 8759, Dept. SOF, Amarillo, Texas 79114-8759); subscriptions are \$70 per year (26 issues), \$74.38 in Texas. Sample issue available for \$3. Those interested in world intel are encouraged to subscribe.



## Tactical Tracer

Since its earliest use, the traditional application of tracer rounds has been in machine guns and automatic weapons. Its use in rifles, however, is more controversial. This is especially so since current U.S. battle rifles have either fully automatic or burst-fire capability. Even among experienced combat veterans, thoughts on the subject vary from those who feel there is no application at all for tracers in individual rifles, to those who believe that a tracer should be the standard-issue round for infantry use.

Tracer ammunition was first used extensively in World War I, with special rounds being developed to ignite hydrogen-filled enemy observation balloons. A modern tracer round typically has a conventionally shaped, jacketed bullet, the base of which is filled with a pyrotechnic tracing compound. This compound is ignited by the round's hot propellant gases and burns brightly as the bullet flies toward the target. The net result is an optical phenomenon that appears to be a streak of bright light that follows the bullet's path. Depending on the chemical composition used, the trace, as the streak of light is called, can be white or colored. The most common traces are red or green, but can be other colors. During the Vietnam War, American tracers were typically red and, conveniently, the enemy's tracers were usually green, making for an easy evaluation of who was shooting.

The primary purpose of tracer ammunition is to give the shooter feedback as to where his bullets are going. This is particularly valuable when firing at moving targets, or from a moving vehicle where conventional aiming can be difficult.

American military doctrine has long held that tracer ammunition should be used in the night attack but not in the night defense. The reason for the restriction on use in night defense is the belief that it will compromise the location of fighting positions. A fear of revealing the shooter's location seems to be the prominent argument

against using tracers in virtually every circumstance.

Though it would appear to be a logical assumption that tracers will compromise the location of the shooter, this is a controversial point. An important factor in this discussion is that modern rifle-caliber tracers are designed not to begin a visible trace until the bullet is some distance from the muzzle of the weapon, typically 35 to 75 meters down range. Thus the firing signature of the individual weapon is not increased, and the exact location of the shooter not evinced by the trace.

Although still theoretically possible for the enemy to observe and record tracer azimuths and by resection plot one's fighting positions, research indicates that the sound of firing and normal muzzle flash contribute as much if not more to revealing the location of the shooter than do tracer rounds.

One major disadvantage of tracer ammunition is its inherent inaccuracy caused by tracing compounds that never burn symmetrically. Army tests conducted at Fort Benning, Ga., demonstrated conclusively that tracer ammunition is not nearly as accurate as ball or AP. This fact by itself should preclude the tracer from being used as the standard rifle round.

Though the individual tracer bullet is not as accurate as a ball bullet in aimed fire, the tracer is typically not used in aimed fire. Indeed, to take advantage of the tracer's ability to adjust fire on a target, one must observe the trace of the bullet instead of the sights on the weapon. This can be quite useful in situations where the rifle's sights are not usable anyway. For example, in a test conducted at Fort Benning, an infantry squad using all tracer ammunition in a night-defense situation achieved 200% to 300% more target hits than when they used ball ammunition. In another Army study the use of tracers for night firing also resulted in a considerable improvement in hits — but it also noted that there was a detrimental effect on subsequent firing without tracers, because soldiers continued to shoot without aiming.

It is interesting to note that during the Vietnam War, Recondo units of the 101st Airborne Division reported getting much higher kill ratios than other elements of the division by using a 50% mix of tracer in their rifle magazines. Going back further in history, the 180th Infantry Regiment in the Korean War reported using a 1-to-4 tracer-to-ball mix on combat patrols with great success, because of an improved ability to estimate the effect of their fire, and facilitate fire control. Remember, however, that the use of tracer ammunition in daylight has proven to promote the use of unaimed fire, because some riflemen will attempt to adjust their fire by tracer observation rather than use their sights.



Tracer rounds used in infantry rifles are another valuable and highly flexible tool, with many applications, which should not be overlooked. Team leaders and squad leaders can use them to direct the fire of their elements.



That is clearly undesirable.

Interviews I conducted with several dozen Vietnam infantry combat veterans from a wide variety of units indicate that the most common use of tracer ammunition in rifles in Vietnam was by team leaders and squad leaders to direct the fire of their elements. In the Korean War, rifle-fired tracers were occasionally used to pin-point enemy positions to supporting tanks, with good results. However, there is a belief that the use of tracers by team leaders to direct fire resulted in excessive casualties to team leaders, as the tracers tended to draw disproportionate enemy return fire. Whether or not this was true has never been established, but there would be a trade-off where using tracers results in more enemy killed, while possibly putting the user at somewhat greater risk. Whether not this is a good trade-off depends on the specific situation.

There are definite psychological factors involved in the use of tracers in rifles. If a soldier believes that the use of tracers will give away his position or draw fire, this gives him a negative attitude toward tracer use. On the other hand, many soldiers believe from their own experience that suppressive tracer fire scares the enemy and consequently they have a positive attitude toward its use. The Israelis felt strongly enough about the positive psychological advantages of tracer ammunition on night combat patrols that they developed tracer ammunition for use in their UZI 9mm submachine guns. Some individuals and units in Vietnam commonly carried their first magazine loaded with all tracer, largely for the psychological factor.

There are many other uses for tracer ammunition in rifles. Army manuals suggest that tracer fire can be useful in maintaining direction in a night attack. They also indicate it is extremely useful when a unit's organic weapons, including rifles, are used to engage low-flying enemy aircraft. During the Vietnam War a common practice was to use two to four tracer rounds at the bottom of each magazine to warn the shooter to change magazines.

The fallacy here is, if the rifleman is using his sights, as he should in daylight, he will invariably miss seeing the trace except when firing at long ranges. I personally used all tracers in the magazine of my weapon when I was traveling by jeep or other vehicle, because I felt that it would be a great aid in adjusting fire while shooting from a moving vehicle when attacked.

One characteristic of tracer ammunition to keep in mind is that it can start fires. This has both positive and negative aspects. Obviously, one should not fire tracers into a building unless you are willing to risk burning it down. Similarly, firing tracers into an area of dry brush or grass, as might be found around a defen-

sive perimeter in dry weather, can cause brush fires that may set off defensive mines, trip flares and the like, which would be highly undesirable. It is also unwise to use tracers in a forested area during the dry season.

Conversely, if it is desirable to flush enemy from a building by setting it on fire, tracers provide a good way to do so from a safe distance. Similarly, when ambushing enemy trucks and other soft-skinned vehicles, tracers can be used to ignite fuel tanks or spare fuel containers.

In overview, it becomes quite clear from the widely successful use of tracers in rifles in Vietnam, Korea, and World

War II, that tracer ammunition should be kept available for use in rifles under the direction of individual unit leaders.

The advantages of higher hit probability in some situations has to be weighed against the possible disadvantages of position disclosure and the other liabilities. The psychological advantages and disadvantages should be considered, as should prevailing local combat conditions. However, the option to deploy tracer ammunition in rifles should be there. Tracer rounds used in infantry rifles are another valuable and highly flexible tool, with many applications, which should not be overlooked. ✕

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## Text & Photos by Valery N. Shilin

The basic concept of modular variations of a basic firearm is exemplified by the Stoner system, early Heckler and Koch developments and developments by Reed Knight on the M4A1 carbine and M16A2E4 rifle. The heart of the concept is to adapt a weapon to specific tactical missions by means of a variety of interchangeable component/accessory combinations, while the principal features of the weapon remain intact. A more recent development in Russia is the result of work by my friends at the "Rex Firearm Company, Ltd." in St. Petersburg, Russia, who have devised a modular firearm, based on the principle of modifying a host weapon by altering its internal mechanisms.

The weapon's designation is *Gepard* (Cheetah) and it is chambered for a variety of 9mm ammunition. I met with Evgeniy B. Korotkov, director of Rex, in March 1996. Rex was a company recently founded with participation of the Baltic State Technical University (formerly the Institute for Military Mechanics) in St. Petersburg. The people at Rex, in cooperation with the Army Central Shooting Range in Rzhevsk, had developed this interesting experimental modular submachine gun.

The Gepard looks very much like a Kalashnikov AKS74U with a shortened and modified receiver and a different stock. It has a typical envelope for a submachine gun, and is chambered for the 9x18 Makarov round — plus, is capable of firing various 9mm ammunition, from 9x17mm Browning, 9x19mm Parabellum, 9x21 to even a new 9x30mm Russian round without rebarreling. At our initial meeting, Evgeniy showed me photos of targets the Gepard had worked on: a Russian military issue flak jacket, a 6mm steel plate and a 1.25mm hardened titanium sheet. The targets showed good, compact groups — and plenty of "throughs" from a range of 400 meters.

I flew to Rex's facilities to test the Gepard with Korotkov and Youriy Yanin, his associate in Rex, and Alexander Shevchenko, a test engineer and one of the Gepard's creators.

### Main Features And Subsystems

The Gepard provides operators with an extremely lightweight and compact envelope. Weight, empty and without magazine, is only two kilograms (4.4 pounds). With its steel buttstock folded, the SMG's overall length is only 420mm; with the stock extended, it is 640mm. With a 22-round magazine inside the skeleton pistol grip, the weapon's height is 200mm. It is 38mm wide. Configuration of the main synthetic stock makes the Gepard SMG a very controllable weapon afield.

It can be comfortably fired from many positions, such as with the extended butt-



stock against the shoulder; with the buttstock folded, either from the hand as a pistol or from two hands, with the carrying sling looped over the shoulder; with the base of the pistol grip either placed on an elevated object or right on the ground in front of a prone operator.

The sights of the Gepard SMG are typical of the Kalashnikov weapons family. The rear sight, located atop the bolt cover, is of a flip-up type with two protective ears and two open square notches with 100 and 200-meter elevation settings. The post-type front sight, located on the gas chamber, is adjustable for both windage and elevation.

The Kalashnikov-type receiver is shortened at the rear and modified to accept the hinge of a retractable bracket of the buttstock.

The usual sheet-metal selector lever is located above the trigger on the right side of

receiver. The Gepard's trigger mechanism is exactly that of the AKS74U. Without going much into detail, since the standard Kalashnikov system is known to *SOF* readers, the Gepard has the following basic operational modes: safe, semiautomatic and fully automatic.

In its uppermost position, the selector brings the weapon to "safe." The trigger is blocked and the bolt carrier can be retracted only partially — just enough to see through the opening whether there is ammunition in the magazine. The amount of travel the bolt group performs is neither sufficient to cock the hammer nor chamber the first round.

In the extreme low position marked "OD" (*odinochniy* — "single" in Russian), the selector brings the system to semi-auto operation.



# EXCLUSIVE:

# GEPARD

## Russia's New 400-Meter Burp Gun



### Operating Principles

The bolt group driven rearward, the extractor claw removes any empty case from the chamber, and the ejector disposes of it through the opening in the right side of the top cover. As the bolt carrier travels farther, the single-strand recoil spring is compressed, the hammer is cocked and engaged with the auto-safety cocking cam. This cycle completed, the bolt group begins its return travel forward driven by the return spring. The mechanism goes forward, another round is stripped from the magazine and chambered, the bolt carrier releases the hammer from the auto-safety sear. With the hammer cocked and a round in the chamber the weapon is ready to fire.

The trigger mechanism mainspring is of the multiple-strand type, which lasts longer and offers better performance under adverse

conditions. After the trigger has been released, its extension moves forward. The hook in the trigger extension is held by the sear. When the trigger is pulled, its hook moves the sear and disengages it from the hammer-cocking cam. The hammer, driven by the mainspring, pivots forward and strikes the firing pin. The firing pin moves forward and impinges the primer. A shot is fired.

To fire in the full-auto mode, the selector is placed in the middle position marked "AB" (*avtomaticheskiy*). By so doing, the sear is deactivated and cannot retain the hammer. In this mode the auto-safety sear holds the hammer back until the bolt carrier, while moving forward, releases it to fire another round, not unlike a Kalashnikov.

Along with the standard fire-mode selector, which also functions as the safety, the Gepard has an additional safety located in

The new Gepard is a compact weapon which can be fired from a variety of positions — and because of its modular design — in a variety of interchangeable calibers. (Inset) Well-balanced, compact and lightweight, the Gepard SMG can be comfortably fired as a pistol.

the trigger — the construction which in my opinion resembles the one designed by Glock of Austria.

As mentioned, the Gepard can accept a wide variety of 9mm rounds. These include 9x17 Browning, 9x18 standard round-nose FMJ Makarov, 9x18 high-impulse cartridge with truncated-cone bullet with rounded tip, 9x18 blank cartridges, standard 9x19 Parabellum, Russian experimental 9x19 RG-057 rounds with a cone-shaped bullet having a hard-alloy core, 9x21 RG-052 and RG-054 high impulse rounds equipped with special cone-shaped bullets featuring a hard-alloy core, and the new 9x30 super-powerful, high-impulse round designated "Grom" (Thunder). The round, developed at the Rex Firearm Company, may be loaded with either standard FMJ or hard-alloy core bullets.

In addition to the above rounds, Youriy Yanin believes the Gepard can be easily adapted to such cartridges as 7.62x25TT, a 7.62x30 and to .45 APC.

### Changing Magazines ... And Chambers

The weapon features detachable, box-type, two-column, sheet-metal magazines of 22 or 40 rounds. The magazines are placed in the center of gravity, helping the weapon's handling characteristics. In its present configuration, the construction of the Gepard magazine follower, which has a special spring rest, accepts all the above types of 9mm ammunition interchangeably.





(clockwise from top) Balanced at the grip, also the magazine well, the Gepard has good instinctive shooting properties, and superb accuracy and hit probability. The first experimental prototype of the Gepard was an AKS74U adaptation to the 9x18mm Makarov round. The weapon, called the Ryss (Lynx), provided inspiration to develop the Gepard for a wide spectrum of 9mm cartridges. The Gepard can readily be fired from horizontal cover under intensive hostile fire. A compact weapon with a folding stock, the Gepard can be easily carried concealed under the coat.



The important consideration is that with all types of cartridges, the tip of a bullet should be at the extreme right position on the follower to enable its reliable access from the magazine into the ammunition feeding axis line in front of the bolt.

A unique feature of the Gepard is that in changing calibers, it is not necessary to change barrels. Instead, *chambers* are replaced via a set of two modular screw-in sleeves, which are interchanged into a threaded barrel extension. The internal profile of these sleeves comprise the chamber. One sleeve is designed to accept rounds of 9x17 to 9x21mm; the other takes the new 9x30 round. To facilitate this unusual construction, the chamber throat features a rather gradual geometry of slope. During my test firing at the Rzhnevsk Army Central Shooting Range, I loaded a 40-round magazine with a random mix of 9x19 Parabellum and 9x19 RG-057 ammunition. The two types of rounds, although with similar cases, had different bullets and thus overall lengths. Regardless, the weapon demonstrated steady and effective operation in both semi-auto and full-auto modes.

Depending on the power of the ammunition, a set of modular bolt groups can be

used to enable trouble-free automatic operation: free blowback; free blowback with two inertial masses (weights); gas-assisted free blowback with two inertial masses and a heavier piston; semi-free blowback in the above combinations; or, gas operated with a rotary-locking bolt.

The semi free-blowback bolt makes a 30-degree right-hand turn to lock the chamber. The gas-operated rotary bolt turns to the right by 38-40 degrees, with its two locking lugs mating into recesses in the barrel extension.

### Options And Abilities

All the above firing mechanisms can be additionally outfitted with balancing devices to enhance handling. When firing high-impulse ammunition, the weapon can be fitted with a return spring mechanism featuring either a fiber-glass reinforced buffer pad or an auxiliary shock-absorbing spring, located on the guiding rod.

For a similar purpose, a standard return spring mechanism may be replaced with a counter-balanced return unit. It consists of a guiding rod, a single-strand spring and an outer tube. The tube features regularly spaced openings. The space between the holes is equal to the module of a miniature synchro-

nizing sprocket located inside the tube on the guiding rod, which brings a counter weight towards the bolt carrier when the latter travels rearward after the shot has been fired. In the final phase of its rearward travel, the bolt carrier meets the counter balance. The force of an impact of the two masses moderates the impulse of recoil, enhancing accuracy of fire.

A number of modular muzzle devices are available to meet requirements of specific tactical scenarios, such as silencers, muzzle brakes, compensators, flash hiders and similar accessories.

Overall, the Gepard submachine gun features 65% parts interchangeability with the AKS74U.

Using various types of 9mm ammunition, the Gepard shows outstanding penetration capability. Following are the results of firing 9mm cartridges at two armored compositions from various distances.

Composition One was a 1.6mm-thick hardened titanium plate, plus 20 layers of Kevlar (U.S. Army issue flak vest). Composition Two was a 1.25mm-thick hardened titanium plate, plus 30 layers of TCBM (Russian Army flak jacket). The two compositions featured similar strength parameters.

CARTRIDGE	Max. Distance 100% Perforations
9x18 Makarov, standard	No perforation at any distance
9x18 Makarov, high impulse	50m
9x19 Para, FMJ	70m
9x19 RG-057 hard alloy core	100m
9x21 RG-052 hard alloy core	200m
9x21 RG-054 hard alloy core	200m
9x30 "Grom" hard alloy core	400m
(tests at greater distances not conducted)	

The RG-054 round (9x21mm), with hard alloy core in its projectile, is capable of





Modular package No. 1 shows Gepard fieldstripped, center, surrounded by its components: 1, return spring mechanism, standard for the 9x30mm Grom round; 2, return spring mechanism, with buffer for a semi-free-blowback bolt; 3, bolt carrier with rotary bolt for the 9x30mm Grom round; 4, upper handguard and gas chamber; 5, free blowback bolt with bolt carrier and two weights; 6, semi-free-blowback bolt group for the 9x21mm RG-052 and RG-054 rounds; 7, 22-round magazine; 8, 40-round magazine.



A salient feature of the Gepard is its ability to fire a wide variety of calibers to suit the tactical requirement, such as (left to right): 1, 2, 9x30mm Grom cartridges, with different projectiles; 3, 4, 9x21mm RG-054 and RG-052 rounds; 5, 9x18mm blank fire cartridge; 6, 9x19mm Para; 7, 9x19mm RG-057 round; 8, 9x18 Makarov High Impulse; 9, 9x18 Makarov Standard; 10, 9x17 Browning.



The Gepard, firing RG-054 rounds (9x21mm) with hard alloy core, projectile, showed 100% penetration of a 4mm-thick steel plate at 100 meters (Fig. 1), while at a distance of 50 meters it perforated (in 100% of impacts) a steel plate 6mm thick (Fig. 2).

100% penetration of a 6mm-thick steel plate at a distance of 50 meters, while at a distance of 100 meters it perforates (in 100% of impacts) a steel plate 4mm thick. More tests were carried out to measure the velocity of various cartridges at the distance of 10 meters from the muzzle of the gun.

CARTRIDGE	V10 (m/sec.)
9x18 Makarov, standard	330
9x18 Makarov, high impulse	510
9x19 Para FMJ	360
9x19 RG-057 hard alloy core	430
9x21 RG-052 hard alloy core	430
9x21 RG-054 hard alloy core	430
9x30 "Grom" hard alloy core	600

Tests indicated that the construction of the Gepard's barrel provides a substantial 17-19% increase in velocity, in comparison to conventional hand arms.

When the operator fired single rounds from a bench rest, and in groups of 10 shots for the purpose of identifying the R100 parameter, the submachine gun performed as follows:

CARTRIDGE	Dispersion	
	mm/50m	mm/100m
9x18 Makarov, standard	50	no data
9x18 Makarov, high impulse	50	105
9x19 Para, FMJ	4	90
9x19 RG-057 hard alloy core	35	75
9x21 RG-054 hard alloy core	35	80
9x30 "Grom" hard alloy core	35	95

Judging by the figures above, the Gepard is capable of highly accurate and penetrating fire. Taking into account its cyclic rate varying from 600 rpm to 750 rpm, depending on the type of ammunition used, it is a capable weapon for varying tactical missions.

The Gepard SMG may be well employed by law-enforcement and anti-terrorist units where fire contacts are of a rapid

and intensive nature and where multiple targets are to be engaged in short periods of time at ranges less than 100 meters. In such scenarios, the Gepard's characteristics that may play an important role include its high hit probability, its excellent controllability in a fully automatic fire, its enhanced accuracy during rapid (instinctive) fire, its compact envelope and potential for concealed carry, its more than acceptable penetrating ability and its variable operational range of fire.

Army and special forces also require a compact, effective weapon to be employed in

surgical operations where fire of high density and accuracy at medium ranges (up to 400m) is required. Being engaged in combat, frequently conducted under complex environmental and operational conditions, a soldier needs a lightweight, low-recoil firearm. He would additionally benefit from lesser fatigue as the ability to conduct fire on the move or from cover is enhanced.

*Valery N. Shilin is a Senior Marketing Officer with Izhmash Joint Stock Company, of Izhevsk, Russia. Izhmash is the largest Russian arms manufacturer.*

## GEPARD SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Calibers:</b>	9x18 Makarov Standard, 9x18 Makarov High-Impulse (HI), 9x19 Para, 9x19 RG-057 Armor Piercing (AP), 9x21RG-052 and RG-054 HIAP, 9x30 "Grom" HIAP
<b>Operation:</b>	Semi-auto and full-auto fire modes. Unlocked free blowback; locked semi-free blowback; or locked breech, gas-operated
<b>Cyclic rate:</b>	Variable 600 to 750 rpm
<b>Feed:</b>	Sheet-metal, detachable, box-type, two-column 22 and 40-round magazines
<b>Weight:</b>	(empty and without magazine) 2.0 kg
<b>Length, overall:</b>	With stock unfolded, 640mm; with buttstock folded, 420mm
<b>Barrel:</b>	Four-groove with RH twist of one turn in 350mm. Bore and chamber are chrome plated.
<b>Length of barrel:</b>	235mm
<b>Sights:</b>	Rear sight, located atop the bolt cover, is of a flip-up type with two protective ears and two open, square notches with 100 and 200-meter elevation settings. The post-type front sight, located on the gas chamber with protective ears, is adjustable for both windage and elevation zero.
<b>Manufacturer:</b>	Rex Firearm Co., Ltd./B.G.T.U. 1st Krasnoarmeyskaya St., House 1 198005 St. Petersburg, Russia Telephones: (7-812) — 251 20 27 or (7-812) — 259 11 60 (from U.S., prefix 011)
<b>Status:</b>	Experimental, limited production
<b>T&amp;E summary:</b>	An unusual and a clever design featuring 65% parts interchangeability with the AKS74U assault rifle, for cost-effective production. A lightweight, compact envelope with superb handling characteristics and a low-recoil impulse, controllable rate of fire, more-than-acceptable accuracy and outstanding penetration capability for an arm of this type.





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**Beretta's Tomcat  
.32 ACP Pocket Pistol**

# Fistful

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**H**ow effective are caliber .32 ACP pocket pistols? The average U.S. gun hobbyist will tell you that they are impotent pipsqueaks. Yet, a substantial number of armed professionals carry the Seecamp LWS .32 pistol as a backup, for which they may have paid from \$900 to \$1,200, that is, if they didn't want to wait several years to get one directly from the manufacturer for \$375.

While no death ray to be sure, the .32 ACP cartridge is certainly superior

Text & Photos by  
**Peter G. Kokalis**





**Extremely compact, Beretta's Tomcat provides reasonably priced, reliable performance with a caliber adequate for backup use.**

to the .22 LR or .25 ACP rounds, and with modern ammunition almost as effective as the .380 ACP cartridge. In fact, in Europe the difference in wound ballistics performance between the .32 ACP and .380 ACP cartridges has always been considered to be so insignificant that .32 ACP pocket pistols

prevailed by far, simply by virtue of the fact they invariably contained one more round than their .380 ACP equivalents.

I'm not suggesting that you pack a .32 ACP pocket pistol as a primary carry piece. However, a .32 pistol in your pocket beats the .45 Government Model you left on the night stand. Furthermore, as a backup to your M1911, it would be used only as a last resort and at contact ranges, where upper torso or head shots, even on bobbing and weaving targets, can be placed with a high degree of certainty by experienced pistoleros.

Beretta U.S.A. Corp. (Dept SOF, 17601 Beretta Drive, Accokeek, Maryland 20607, phone: 301-283-2191; fax: 301-283-0435) commenced development of a .32 ACP pistol in 1994. In

1996, they introduced the Model 3032 Tomcat, a derivative of their other tip-up barrel, double-action, semiautomatic pocket pistols, the Model 86 Cheetah (.380 ACP) and Model 21 Bobcat (.22 LR or .25 ACP). The Model 3032 Tomcat's envelope approximates that of the Model 21 Bobcat. It also comes quite close in size to the Seecamp LWS 32 double-action-only pistol. Suggested retail price of the Beretta 3032 Tomcat is only \$317 in matte black (polished black at \$345).

*Soldier Of Fortune* was recently sent a Beretta Tomcat for test and evaluation.

Operation is by means of unlocked blowback, with an external hammer, manual sear-blocking safety and both double-action and single-action firing modes. The overall length is 4.9 inches (124 mm), with a barrel length of 2.4 inches (61 mm). The barrel, a steel forging, has been button-rifled with six grooves and a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches. The weight, with an empty magazine, is



**There is a spring-loaded recoil spring lever on each side of the frame under the grip panels. Their upper arms engage notches on the interior of the slide. As the slide travels rearward during the recoil stroke, the levers rotate around their pivot pins on the frame to compress the coil spring housed in stamped sheet-metal square tubing on each side of the frame.**





**Beretta Tomcat, right-side view** — note trigger mechanism's external transfer bar protruding along the top of the frame in front of the grip panel.



**Beretta Tomcat, left-side view** — Pearce neoprene-type grip panel was designed to inhibit accidental release of the tip-up barrel.

approximately 14.5 ounces. The height, with the magazine inserted, is 3.7 inches (95 mm) and the width (at the grip panels) is 1.1 inches (29 mm).

The slide has been machined from bar stock which was first cold-drawn to shape. Cut away from the very front end all the way back to where it becomes the pistol's breech, the unique slide can be traced without interruption back to the Beretta Model 1915 .32 ACP pocket pistol. This was, in fact, the

salient distinguishing characteristic of the famed Model 1934 Beretta in 9mm Corto (.380 ACP/9mm Kurz), which served as the official sidearm of the Italian army in World War II and a semi-official GI souvenir of that era. The open top of the slide obviates the need for an ejection port as such. The frame, an aircraft-grade 7075 aluminum forging, has been black hard anodized. The slide and all of the internal parts, which are steel, have a black oxide finish.

The recoil system is that of the other Beretta tip-up-barrel pistols. Most often, unlocked blowback pocket pistols have fixed barrels pinned to the frame with a recoil spring wrapped around the barrel. Obviously, the tip-up-barrel design does not permit this. Instead, there is a spring-loaded recoil spring lever on each side of the frame under the grip panels. Their upper arms engage notches on the interior of the slide. As the slide travels rearward during the

## The .32 ACP Cartridge

Probably designed exactly 100 years ago, when John Browning patented his first successful semiautomatic pistol, the .32 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol) cartridge was introduced in Belgium in 1900 by *Fabrique Nationale*. In Europe it is more commonly known as the 7.65mm Browning round. It first appeared in the United States in 1903 when the Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company inaugurated the Colt Pocket Model Automatic Pistol, also based on Browning's patents.

Much ridiculed in the United States in recent decades, the .32 ACP cartridge has nonetheless accounted for its fair share of corpses in the last one hundred years. More so-called pocket pistols have been chambered for this round than any other. It was always more popular in Europe and Latin America than the supposedly superior .380 ACP (9mm Kurz) round, merely by virtue of the fact that given the same envelope, pistols chambered for the .32 ACP invariably accept one more cartridge.

Because its case is semi-rimmed, several European revolvers were also chambered for the 7.65mm Browning. Over the



years the case length has varied from about 17.2 mm to 17.4 mm (0.677-inch to 0.685-inch). The projectile weights vary from 55 to 76 grains. Round nose Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) bullets were the most prevalent type. Bullet diameters have also varied considerably, with 0.311-inch to 0.312-inch now the accepted standard. Muzzle velocities vary from approximately 900 to 980 fps for factory ammunition and from about 750 to 1,000 fps for reloads.

Certainly, the .32 ACP round's performance is marginal. Of that there can be no dispute. However, in the last several years some fairly effective ammunition has been developed, as manufacturers have finally acknowledged the importance of bullet design. FMJ bullets should be avoided, as we

need to maximize the size of the wound track to the greatest extent possible, without excessively compromising the depth of penetration.

SOF's tests indicate that Winchester's .32 ACP Silvertip ammunition will penetrate 14.6 inches of soft tissue. That's good, but the Winchester bullet exhibits no more than incipient expansion. A much better choice is the Hornady Custom (Hornady Manufacturing Co., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1848, Grand Island, NE 68802; phone: 308-382-13909; fax: 308-382-5761) .32 ACP load which features their 60-grain Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) XTP projectile. Muzzle velocity is about 970 fps. This bullet will penetrate about 10.5 inches of soft tissue. It will expand to .40 caliber with the jacket petals forming a stellate pattern around the expanded lead core. While the jacket petals' sharp edges will significantly increase the amount of damage, shot placement remains absolutely critical with this caliber. This is the best .32 ACP ammunition available at this time. Even so, attempt nothing but upper torso or head shots, and at close ranges only.

— P.G.K.



**A**rmed professionals do not carry pocket pistols in their pockets without first stuffing them into a properly designed holster. Remember, holsters of this type are not built for speed draws. They're designed to 1) modify a pistol's configuration and inhibit it from "printing" through the clothing, and 2) prevent it from rotating about in your pocket so that you can always reach the grip frame.

Sam Andrews (Andrews Custom Leather, Dept. SOF, Rt. 4, Box 48, Alachua, FL 32615; phone: 904-462-0576 — send \$2 for catalog) provides several holsters that are ideal for deep concealment of the Beretta Tomcat. Andrews has been crafting custom combat holsters for twenty one years. Located in north central Florida, near Gainesville and just one hour south of the Georgia border, his customer base circles the globe, with a significant percentage of law-enforcement personnel and now an even larger clientele of civilians, as a consequence of the spate of concealed carry legislation passed throughout the United States in the last several years.

Sam uses only number one grades of oak-tanned cowhide. All of his holsters are hand-molded and stitched with heavy bonded nylon thread, which is sealed to protect against the environment. Many of his holsters and belts feature a suede lining. His two models of pocket-type holsters do not.

## Pocket Holsters FOR Pocket Pistols



**Andrews Pocket Holster is shaped to fill the pocket and keep the pistol upright while also breaking up the outline to prevent "printing."**

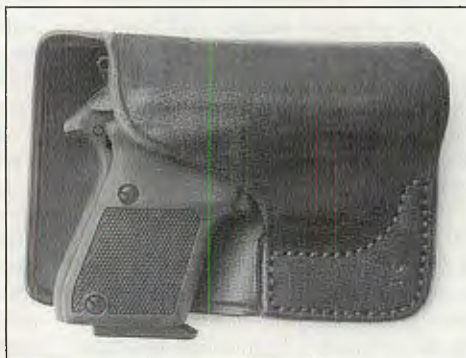
strong-side pocket as I carry my primary piece on the weak-side in a crossdraw holster. However, some authorities, such as Ken Hackathorn, recommend carrying pistols of this type in the front weak-side pocket, in case you need the pistol while you're shaking hands. Whatever you decide, be sure to stipulate on what side you'll be carrying the pistol when you order a Pocket Holster from Andrews.

Another alternative is the Andrews Wallet Holster. Unlike those you keep on the handgun while you shoot (possession of which together with the pistol constitutes an unregistered AOW — Any Other Weapon — according to the BATF), you must draw from this rig, which was designed mainly for hip pocket carry. Another rough-side-out holster, its full-length shield faces the outside and it is welted below the pistol. Both features are intended to prevent "printing." This holster sells for \$45.

All of Sam Andrews' holsters are of the highest quality and meet the strictest professional standards. I can endorse these pocket holsters without qualifications of any kind. — P.G.K.

Sam's standard Pocket Holster is shaped to fill the pocket and keep the pistol upright while also breaking up the outline to prevent "printing." This holster is constructed with the rough-side out so that it will stay in the pocket when the pistol is drawn. The skirts are molded on a curve to lay flat against the leg. For a pistol the size of Beretta's Tomcat, the Pocket Holster costs only \$25. For larger pistols, such as the AMT .45 ACP BACK UP DAO, the price is \$35.

This holster is ideal for carrying the Beretta Tomcat in a front pants pocket. I usually carry small backup pocket pistols in the front



**Andrews Wallet Holster is another rough-side-out design, its full-length shield faces the outside and it is welted below the pistol.**

recoil stroke, the levers rotate around their pivot pins on the frame to compress the coil spring housed in stamped sheet-metal square tubing on each side of the frame. This clever, but complex, system substantially increases the width of the pistol in the grip area.

Rotating a serrated lever on the left side of the frame forward will cause the barrel, spring-loaded by means of a flat spring in the frame, to pop upward. This permits the chamber to be easily loaded by hand or to be cleaned from the chamber end. After loading, push the barrel downward until it clicks in place into the locked position.

Beretta's tip-up-barrel pistols do not have an extractor. After firing, as the slide moves rearward, the empty case is blown out of the chamber and then strikes the fixed ejector mounted to the left interior side of the frame, which propels it out of the pistol. As a consequence, to remove a loaded round from the chamber you must tip up the barrel and extract it by hand.

The trigger mechanism makes use of an external transfer bar on the right side of the frame. In the double-action mode this bar acts directly on the hammer. When the hammer is cocked, either by hand or after succeeding shots, this transfer bar pulls the sear out from under a notch in the hammer when the trigger is pulled. Trigger-pull weights on SOF's test specimen were 7.75 pounds in double-action and a mushy 4 pounds in single-action. There is no disconnecter as such. A projection on the transfer bar at the rear engages a recess in the slide. When the slide travels rearward during the recoil stroke, the bar is pivoted downward out of contact with the sear allowing the hammer and sear to reset.

There is a manual thumb safety on the left side of the frame. Rotating the lever upward places the mechanism on "safe" by preventing movement of both the sear and trigger by means of an intercept arm on the lever. The safety can be engaged whether the hammer is cocked or uncocked. When rotated up the safety also engages a notch in the slide to prevent its rearward travel. When rotated downward, a red half-dot on the slide is exposed to indicate the "fire" position. Other supposed safety features include a half-cock notch on the hammer and the use of an inertial firing pin.

Since there is no firing-pin block, Beretta advises against carrying the Tomcat with a round in the chamber as it could discharge if dropped on the muzzle. I know of no armed professionals that will heed this advice. I view this pistol as a last-ditch, desperation backup. If it is ever drawn, you will need to fire it immediately. With no round in the chamber, that means either retracting the diminutive slide — no easy task under even the calmest of scenarios — or pushing the barrel lever forward to tip up the barrel, inserting a round and slamming the barrel down to lock it in place. Selecting either alternative will lose you the gunfight. Personally, as I find even the safety difficult to depress under stress, I carry this pistol with a round in the chamber, the hammer



down and the safety off. While Beretta's liability attorneys must justify their existence, those carrying this pistol in harm's way might very well have to justify their own continued existence in a close encounter of the deadly kind.

The sights are adequate for a pistol of this type. The fixed front sight blade, integral with the barrel, has a forward taper and measures 0.082-inch in width. The open, square-notch rear sight, 0.088-inch in width, is dovetailed to the slide and can be drift-adjusted for windage zero. Gratefully, there are no colored dots or bars on the sights. These distractions serve no useful function when you are properly programmed for "front sight, press."

The single-column, detachable box-type magazine holds seven rounds. With one up the spout, this gives you eight chances to survive the encounter. If you needed more, you should have run in the opposite direction before the confrontation escalated. The magazine body and chromed spring follower are both steel stamped sheet-metal pressings. The magazine's floorplate is a black polymer injection molding.

The magazine catch/release button is located in the left-side grip panel. When pressed the magazine will fall freely away. The firing grip must be shifted to depress the release button, but this is hardly a tactical consideration with a pistol of this type. Few will carry a spare magazine and the pistol is sold with only one.

While the Tomcat is provided with adequate black plastic, checkered grip panels retained by two screws on each side of the frame, I chose to replace them with the neoprene-type grip panels designed for this pistol by Pearce Grip, Inc. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 187, Bothell, WA 98041-0187; phone: 206-485-5488; fax: 206-488-7102). Checkered at the bottom, the top of each Pearce grip panel has well-designed finger swells. Although they slightly increase the width, they provide a better purchase for those with large hands. Even more important, the left-side Pearce grip panel was designed to inhibit accidental release of the tip-up barrel. There are two versions: a wrap-around style with a checkered front strap and one with two separate side panels. The latter is the version I prefer. A valuable accessory for the Beretta Tomcat, these grip panels cost only \$17.

Disassembly procedures for the Tomcat are straight forward. Remove the magazine and tip up the barrel to remove any round in the chamber. Then rotate the barrel as far forward as possible — just past its hinge. Cock the hammer and retract the slide no

more than about 1/8-inch. Lift up the front end of the slide until it is above the barrel's hinge and has been disconnected from the recoil levers. Pull the slide forward to clear the guide lug on each side of the frame at the rear. Remove the grip panels. The magazine can be disassembled in the conventional manner. No further disassembly is

recommended. Clean, lubricate and reassemble in the reverse order.

When firing the Tomcat, the little finger will rest under the magazine's floorplate. Because of the pistol's hand-filling design, the Pearce grip panels and the cartridge for which it is chambered, the recoil impulse is mild and the target can be re-acquired quickly for a second shot. All test firing was conducted at ranges of 7 yards and closer. Firing a small backup pistol at ranges much beyond this demonstrates only the absence of a real-life tactical database.

We fired a wide range of ball and hollow-point ammunition. Earlier reports of feeding problems with hollow-point ammunition, if true, have been addressed as SOF's test specimen operated flawlessly with all of the rounds we employed.

While not quite as small as the Seecamp LWS .32, the Beretta Tomcat costs considerably less, can be deployed with a larger and more effective range of ammunition, exhibits a lower recoil impulse, has superior sights, can be disassembled more easily, can be concealed just as readily and is far more reliable. Except for Seecamp cultists, the Beretta Tomcat wins hands down. ✕



Tip-up barrels are a distinguishing characteristic of all the small Beretta semiautomatic, double-action pocket pistols.

## Beretta Model 3032 Tomcat

### SPECIFICATIONS

- Caliber:** .32 ACP.
- Operation:** Unlocked blowback, with an external hammer, manual sear-blocking safety and both double-action and single-action firing modes.
- Weight:** (with empty magazine) Approximately 14.5 ounces.
- Length, overall:** 4.9 inches (124 mm).
- Height:** (with the magazine inserted) 3.7 inches (95 mm).
- Width:** 1.1 inches (29 mm) at the grip panels.
- Barrel:** Button-rifled with six grooves and a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches.
- Barrel length:** 2.4 inches (61 mm).
- Magazine:** Seven-round, single-column, detachable box-type.
- Sights:** Fixed front sight blade, integral with the barrel, with forward taper and 0.082-inch width; open, square-notch rear sight, 0.088-inch in width, is dovetailed to the slide and can be drift-adjusted for windage zero.
- Finish:** Black, hard anodized frame; black oxide on all steel components.
- Price:** \$317 matte black; \$345 polished.
- Manufacturer:** Beretta U.S.A. Corp., Dept SOF, 17601 Beretta Drive, Accokeek, Maryland 20607, phone: 301-283-2191; fax: 301-283-0435.
- T&E summary:** Extremely compact. Reliable. Low-recoil impulse. Reasonably priced. Caliber adequate for backup use.



Beretta Model 3032 Tomcat, fieldstripped.





# RANGER, LEAD THE WAY!



Late April brings spring showers to the Appalachian woods of northern Georgia, muffling the sound of infantrymen moving in tactical formation.

Platoon Alpha-1 collectively is *dragging butt*: lean rations, little sleep, a physical and mental grind. It is the fifth day of a 10-day field exercise in "mountain phase," the halfway point of the U.S. Army Ranger Course. Thirty days to go.

The students — by now, about 65% of those who started a month earlier at Fort Benning, Ga. — must climb seemingly endless hills and negotiate ridge lines. The *studs* (instructors' jargon for "students") carry M16A2 rifles, M60 general-purpose machine guns, M249 squad automatic weapons, and (empty) LAW and AT4 rocket launchers. Mud-spattered rucksacks

bulge with blank ammunition, team equipment and personal gear.

Alpha-1 and the four other platoons of class #6-97 comprise mostly young Ranger-battalion troops and airborne-infantry officers and NCOs plus a few Special Forces operators and two Navy SEALs. They are planning and executing day and night patrols, recons, ambushes, and site raids against opposition-force (Opfor) units in approved areas of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

The bad guys wear desert-cammie uniforms of the scenario's "People's National Revolutionary Movement," drive sinister black Humvee utility vehicles, and "stroke" (attack) student platoons on a schedule and upon radioed request from Ranger instructors (RIs).

## Going Through Phases

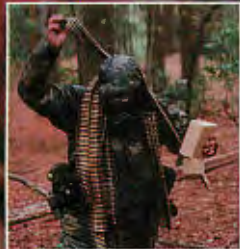
Behind class 6-97 is "Benning phase" at Ranger camps Robert Rogers and William O. Darby: days of rigorous PT, lengthy classroom and hands-on sessions in infantrymen's skills, doses of RIs' harassment, patrolling exercises, and airmobile and airborne ops. (Parachute jumps are preceded by a day of Benning refresher training for *all* of the airborne-qualified students.) In the near future is "Florida phase" and its Yellow River Swamp: a black-water grind of wetlands patrolling, Opfor engagements, and riverine ops out of Camp James E. Rudder on Eglin Air Force Base. Airborne-qualified troops are inserted into Eglin, on the Gulf coast, from Air Force C-130 or C-141 transports.

One small problem, though: #6-97 still





## Dahlonega Déjà Vu For SOF Staffer

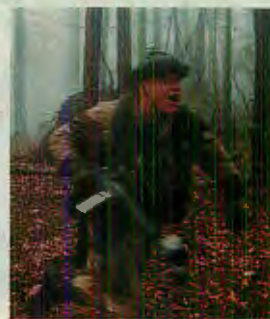


Text & Photos by  
**Marty Kufus**

has to make it out of the Georgia mountains.

Here the studs belong to the 5<sup>th</sup> Ranger Training Battalion at Camp Frank D. Merrill. It is located in a *Deliverance* kind of countryside — minus the roaring river and hostile locals. In fact, civic leaders in the historic gold-mining town of Dahlonega, about 15 miles away, generally regard Camp Merrill, with its multi-million-dollar federal payroll and willing (off-duty) force of Boy Scout leaders and Civil Defense volunteers, as a *good neighbor*.

There is proud Army tradition here. The camp was named after the commander of the “Merrill’s Marauders” who conducted jungle and mountain warfare — pack mules and all — more than 50 years ago in Burma against the Japanese army. Now, as then, the rule is, “Control the high ground.”



Opfor troops skirmish on hilltop with Bravo-2, then fall back after tossing smoke grenades and ordnance simulators. Next night, Opfor vehicle carrying four is “ambushed” on remote road. Patrol leader likely failed mission, though: primary M60 team was not positioned properly, and Humvee was not in “kill zone” when PL initiated fire.

### Ridge-Running In Deep Forest

Three RIs accompany Alpha-1 on round-the-clock shifts. The Ranger-qualified infantry NCOs scrutinize and grade student leaders’ decisions, examine injuries (radioing for medevac, if necessary), and maintain scheduled radio comms on the Camp Merrill cadre’s net. They do not intervene in the conduct of patrols unless absolutely necessary.

With dawn still hours away, Alpha-1 arrives in the vicinity of its objective: a hill dotted with both deciduous and coniferous trees. A three-man leader’s recon confirms the location. Wet, tired, and hungry, the troops quietly occupy the spot and establish patrol-base security. The student platoon sergeant oversees maintenance on weapons — no more than 50% at one time — and team equipment. The RIs quietly confer with student leaders, discussing their performance. Afterward, each stud gets a few minutes for chow: a cold MRE, or what’s left of it, and chemically treated creek water.

One Ranger student puts a pinch of Copenhagen snuff in his mouth. He recalls a fatigue-induced hallucination: In the moonlight, “I thought I saw a bear and a woman running through the trees.” His head is clearer now, after a 20-minute zzz-ration. *Benning lore recalls one Ranger student — maybe 15 years ago, maybe during Vietnam — who hallucinated in a night patrol. Fellow students, on bent knees in a security halt, saw him standing beside a big tree, poking at its trunk. He thought he was dropping coins into a Coke machine.*



Class 6-97 started with 251 at Benning; a month later, there are about 160 students. Probably another 20 will drop — poor performance as leaders, bad attitude or misconduct, or injury — before the end of mountain phase. By now each member of Alpha-1 has lost some 15 pounds of body weight.

### Chaos As A Teacher

One of Alpha-1’s hard-chargers is Navy Ensign Derek Nelson, from SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team 2 at Little Creek, Va. For him, Ranger school provides “junior-officer leadership training” and allows him to “get to know another side of the house.”

“At first I didn’t think there would be much to [Ranger school],” he says as he finishes cleaning his “pig”: M60 machine gun. His “Ranger buddy” and assistant gunner, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Charles Sasser, from the 3/505<sup>th</sup> at Fort Bragg, N.C., walks over with belts of linked 7.62x51mm blanks.

“I think you learn a lot more when things are screwed up,” Nelson continues. One sure way to introduce chaos into infantry training is to “take away chow and sleep.” By contrast, he adds, “I ate like a pig in SEAL training.”

Since the Vietnam War, a steady trickle of recon Marines and naval commandos has come through this course. SEALs are relatively few in number and their operational tempo is brisk; finding time to attend a non-Navy course is difficult. There’s another consideration, too. “When you get out of



“OK, gentlemen, let’s get cocked and locked here,” new platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Charles Thrash (right, in inset), says before issuing fragmentary order to squad leaders. Outside poncho hooch, Ranger Instructor Michael Van Engen listens to PL’s *frago*. The RI’s field gear includes hickory hiking staff and Randall survival knife.





(left) "What's your field of fire, stud?" Staff Sgt. Troy Henderson, RI with platoon Bravo-2, quizzes M249 SAW gunner during lull. (above) Displeased with Bravo-2's conduct of patrol-base activities, senior RI and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Tony Lewis drops platoon for pushups. (right) Exhausted student falls asleep behind weapon.

BUD/S, where you are treated like shit, the last thing you want to do is go somewhere *else* and get treated like shit," Nelson says.

### Donuts And Coffee?

Alpha-1's new "walkers" arrive at 0830. With them comes a new list of leadership assignments — platoon leader, platoon sergeant, four squad leaders — and a warning order setting the next mission into action. (It will be a cross-country movement of several kilometers to a designated location. Then, establishment of an objective rally point and release of small recon teams to pinpoint "PNRM" logistical and commo sites. The heavy-weapons squad will remain at the ORP.)

The studs who have not yet held graded leadership roles here are nervous. Their time is coming. Screw up a patrol once, you're weak; screw up repeatedly and you risk getting slam-dunked from the course. And nobody comes this far to fail or even get recycled.

"Patrol leader, get the whole damned platoon down here right now!" Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class John O'Connor, senior of the three fresh RIs, orders. Alpha-1 is in "admin" — non-tactical posture — for the RIs' changeover and a resupply of blank ammunition and radio batteries.

"OK, studs, when we started I told you this would be 10 of the hardest days of your life," he says. "You gotta reach down and grab your nuts and *drive on*."

O'Connor and his team, staff sergeants Michael Van Engen and Scott Wilder, got briefed by the departing RIs: which students are strong, weak, or developing a lousy attitude. Already, one stud thought he'd lighten his load by ditching a belt of machine-gun blanks — dumb.

"You are *not* supporting your leaders!" the all-knowing RI continues. "I'm tired of seeing you collectively letting the strong Rangers pull your weight." He looks at the semicircle of thinning faces, splotted with last night's cammie paint.

"If you don't want to be here,

let us know — I can bus you out of here, and you can go get *donuts* and *coffee*." It is a cruel touch. The studs shake their heads, some snicker. There are no takers.

The RI moves on to a mandatory safety briefing including *contact with wildlife*.

"If you see any critters, leave 'em alone," O'Connor orders. "Some of you boys from New York City and Atlanta are curious about copperheads [moderately poisonous vipers]." He warns that bees and hornets now are stirring, too.

The Ranger infantry concept took hold more than 200 years in colonial America. However, in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, as this country becomes increasingly urbanized, more and more of its young warriors are city-smart but country-*dumb*.

Ranger school helps fill that gap by providing an elite, hard-knocks education in the Great Outdoors. One of its well-known graduates was Harlem-born General Colin

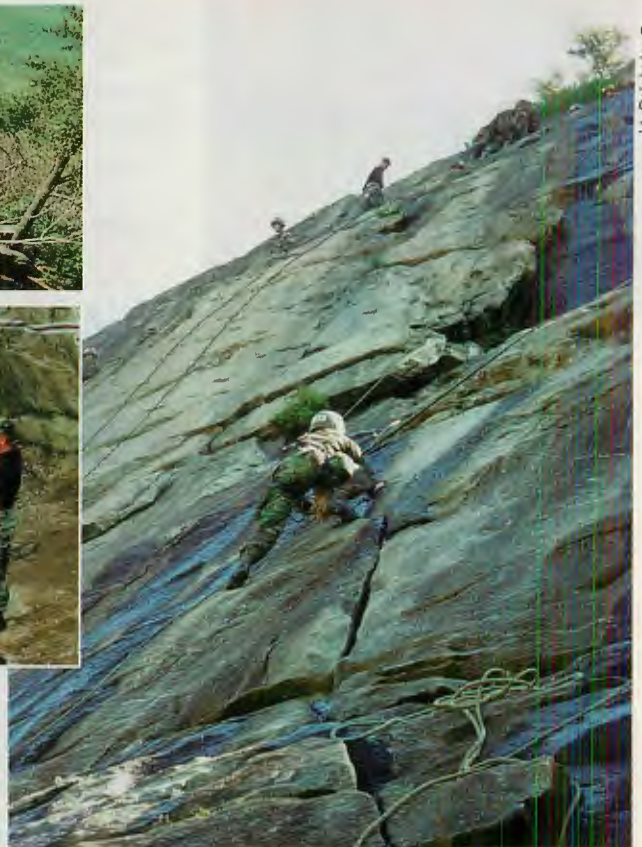
Powell: The ROTC-commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant completed the course in 1958.

For 47 years, Ranger school has challenged topnotch U.S. and selected allied troops — all volunteers and mostly airborne-qualified. Reagan-era Ranger courses even included highly controlled live-fire exercises and a "desert phase" in New Mexico (later, in the Utah badlands).

There have been casualties and probably always will be despite extraordinary behind-the-scenes precautions. Given the variety of activities — including hard PT, night patrols, rock climbing and rappelling, tactical insertions via helicopter and parachute, rubber-boat movement, stream crossings — the risk of injury, or worse, cannot completely be eliminated. Over the years, thousands of men have earned the Ranger tab. Few have forgotten the shared misery.

"Everybody went through the 'last hard Ranger class,'" observes Lieutenant Colonel Luke Green, the (then) commander of the 5<sup>th</sup> RTBn. "There are people out there who think Ranger school has gotten soft. Well, the statistics don't support that."

*Old-school* critics might point to the



Li. Col. Luke Green

Some 30 miles from Camp Merrill stands Mount Yonah, site of mountaineering training on 110-foot rock face. RIs teaching here are graduates of SpecOps mountain-warfare school in Vermont, and use top-quality civilian climbing gear. Ranger instructor, Marine Gunnery Sgt. Duane Sieck (above), demonstrates tying of stirrup on rope.



troops' current ration of two MREs a day during patrolling, compared — years ago — to one C-ration daily. Today's Ranger students, Green says, "are not getting over. Even with two meals a day, they are not meeting their caloric output."

However, in the old days, students wore PCs (soft "patrol caps") most of the time; steel-pot helmets were used only in airborne/airmobile, mountaineering, and live-fire exercises. Now students wear Kevlar helmets in almost *all* tactical activities, as well as MILES training devices — small things, perhaps, but in the long haul they add up.

Bottom line: The failure rate for Ranger school, allowing for recycles, is around 35%.

Out in the field, Green's RIs carefully record all observations and grades. The information is keyboarded into Camp Merrill's computers. Students' performance data are scrutinized. Moreover, if an RI is seen as *too* tough on the students — compared to fellow RIs — his data are examined by senior cadre members.

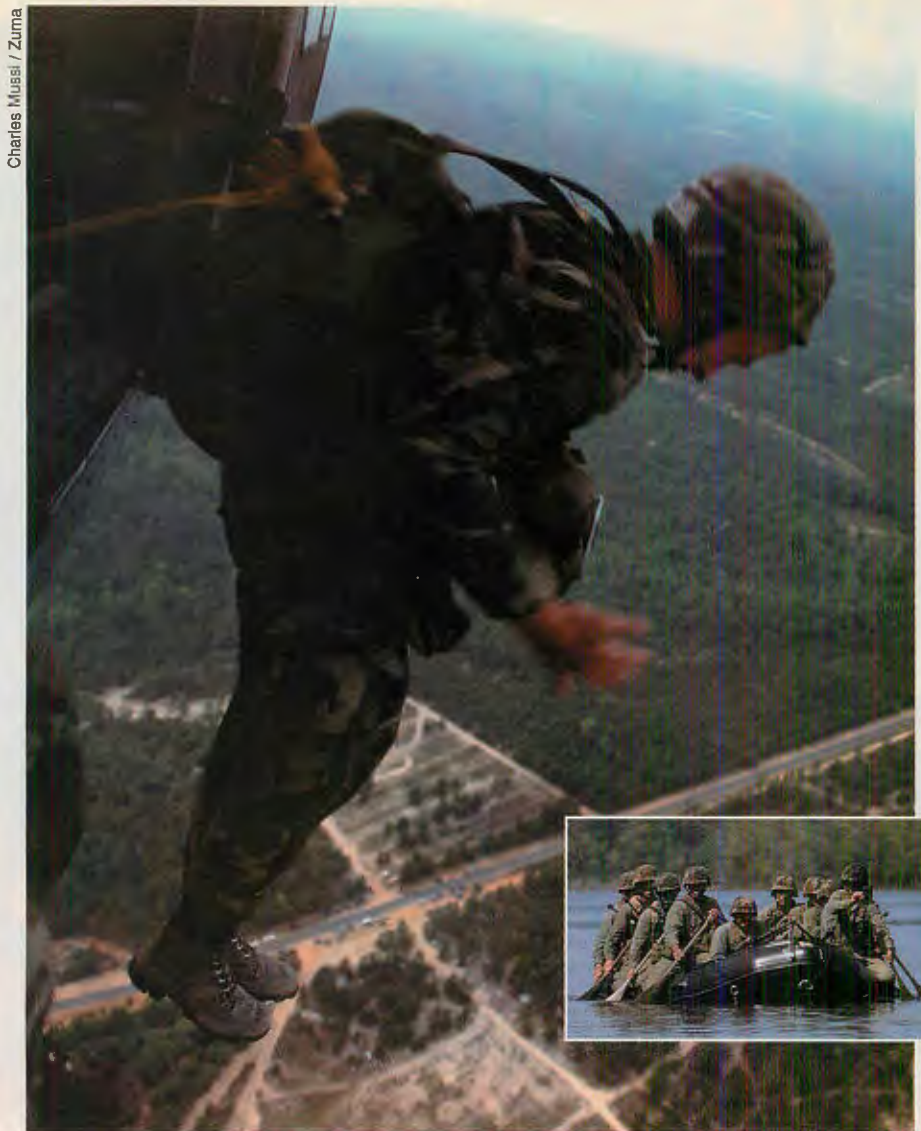
### Decision-Making Process

Alpha-1's PL and squad leaders are double-checking themselves in the patrol base against chapters in their bible, the *Ranger Handbook*. The five-point operations order — situation, mission, execution, service support, and command and signal — is studied as earnestly as a Southern Baptist might contemplate the wisdom of the Ten Commandments.

En route to the ORP, Alpha-1's patrol leader halts his 36 troops for a map check. It is a lousy spot, though: The platoon squats in the open on high ground and probably is visible from below. It also is on the windward side of this ridge line.

The PL, a lieutenant from 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne

*Continued on page 66*



Ranger training includes static-line parachuting (here, a "Hollywood" — no combat gear — jump from Black Hawk helicopter) and, as in Florida phase, rubber-boat ops.

## Standing Orders, Rogers' Rangers, 1759

"Rangers were organized in 1756 by Major Robert Rogers, a native of New Hampshire, who recruited nine companies of American colonists to fight for the British during the French and Indian War. Ranger techniques and methods were an inherent characteristic of the frontiersmen in the colonies, but Major Rogers was the first to capitalize on them and incorporate them into a permanently organized fighting force. ...

1. Don't forget nothing.
2. Have your musket clean as a whistle, hatchet scoured, sixty rounds powder and ball, and be ready to march at a minute's warning.
3. When you're on the march, act the way you would if you was sneaking up on a deer. See the enemy first.
4. Tell the truth about what you see and what you do. There is a Army depending on us for correct information. You can lie all you please when you tell other folks about the Rangers, but don't never lie to a Ranger or officer.
5. Don't never take a chance you don't have to.
6. When you're on the march we march single file, far enough apart so one shot can't go through two men.
7. If we strike on soft ground, we spread out abreast, so it's hard to track us.
8. When we march, we keep moving till dark, so as to give the enemy the least possible chance at us.
9. When we camp, half the party stays awake while the other half sleeps.
10. If we take prisoners, we keep 'em separate till we have had time to examine them, so they can't cook up a story between 'em.
11. Don't ever march home the same way. Take a different route so you won't be ambushed.
12. No matter whether we travel in big parties or little ones, each party has to keep a scout twenty yards ahead, twenty yards on each flank and twenty yards in the rear, so the main body can't be surprised and wiped out.
13. Every night you'll be told where to meet if surrounded by a superior force.
14. Don't sit down to eat without posting sentries.
15. Don't sleep beyond dawn. Dawn's when the French and Indians attack.
16. Don't cross a river by a regular ford.
17. If somebody's trailing you, make a circle, come back onto your tracks, and ambush the folks that aim to ambush you.
18. Don't stand up when the enemy's coming against you. Kneel down, lie down, hide behind a tree.
19. Let the enemy come till he's almost close enough to touch. Then let him have it and jump out and finish him up with your hatchet."

— *Ranger Handbook*, U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga.



# AFRICA'S

# gang-bangers

## Boy "Soldiers" Bring Terror To Liberia

**W**e drove as quickly as possible along a rugged, dirt road overgrown with jungle, stopping only to cut through some of the denser brush. A human skull glared at us from the middle of the road. It looked as if it had been there for a while — a sign that we might not be in the safest place on Earth.

Text & Photos by  
**JoMarie Fecci**

ECOMOG, the military arm of the regional group ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), was attempting to open up this road that cuts across the front line between two armed factions, the Liberia Peace Council (LPC) and the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) in the remote southeastern interior. There, troops from Mali recently had taken over from one of the Nigerian battalions.

The Malian paratroopers hadn't yet set-

Heavily armed fighters of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, commanded by warlord Charles Taylor, hold pep rally in Gbarnga before a combat patrol against forces of the Liberia Peace Council.

tled into the blasé routine of this isolated region. They were alert and prepared for the unexpected. Only a week before, a contingent based in the town of Zwedru had run into a number of well-armed fighters on the jungle road running southeast to the coastal

town of Harper. Apparently, these NPFL gunmen hadn't heard about "voluntary disarmament" — which had officially ended some weeks earlier anyway. (ECOMOG commanders declared that amnesty operation 91% successful, but unofficially every-





one knew there were still guns galore in Liberia.)

ECOMOG's "peace enforcement" mission in Liberia began seven years ago, after the first bout of violence by rebel forces attempting to overthrow the government of President Samuel Doe. Doe was killed in September 1990, and fighting has ebbed and flowed ever since. There have been occasional spells of high-intensity fighting, such as NPLF leader Charles Taylor's "Octopus" operation in 1992 and the chaotic violence that broke out in the capital, Monrovia, on 6 April 1996.

Over the years, the conflict has turned from a more-or-less ordinary civil war into a surreal and very deadly free-for-all. Little boys with infantry weapons play "soldier" as factional leaders vie for big money and political power while mixing their mystique with magic.

In Liberia, if it seems stranger than fiction, it probably is true.

### Living Off Terror

Before the start of the November 1996 disarmament there were an estimated 60,000 combatants in Liberia. The largest faction, Taylor's NPFL, had an estimated

larges, and the breakdown of any semblance of law and order. More than 150,000 non-combatants have been killed, and hundreds of thousands of others have become refugees.

Armed gangs eke out an existence by extortion and terror. These teen-aged "fighters" have absolutely no civilian base of support. In fact, it often seems like a cowardly case of the fighters versus the civilian population rather than the fighters against each other. When a group of "the boys" takes over an area, it tries to keep the inhabitants there for use as forced labor and to attract humanitarian aid — which the thugs then seize. Resources are methodically looted, down to the tin from peoples' roofs.

The latest in a long line of peace accords tasked the poorly equipped and under-financed ECOMOG force with finally putting a stop to a war that has degenerated into a sort of *African street gangs* motif.

sored Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration process that began in November 1996. Checkpoints around the city were haphazardly set-up using wrecked cars and old refrigerators. Fierce street fighting behind them, Nigerian soldiers in assorted uniforms lounged on lawn chairs with their weapons, listening to radios playing the latest Afro-pop music from Zaire.

These days most of the trouble in Liberia remains strictly "low intensity." It usually happens well away from the heavy ECOMOG presence in the capital.

The "war" goes on daily in places like Sinje: a whole village recently massacred



(right) ECOMOG peacekeeping troops examine skull left as warning along Zwedru corridor. (far right) Soldiers from Mali dismount from vehicle during ECOMOG patrol.

(below) Nigerian ECOMOG troops maintain an obvious but non-confrontational presence near Tappita, a major town. In Monrovia, the capital, Nigerian crew in *Piranha* armored-personnel carrier patrols busy streets.



25,000, with the rest found among five other main groups. (The official disarmament period brought in 21,051 combatants, of which 4,235 were children.)

The military situation, however, remains confused.

Multiple factions and groups within the factions have aligned and realigned themselves based on the short-term interests of leaders, some of whom are only in their early 20s. The breakdown of command and control is so serious that warlords without any particular political agenda — but with control of enough fighters — seek territory just for the sake of adding to their own claim to power.

The results are not military victories, just civilian deaths, the decimation of entire vil-

Monrovia still is scarred from April 1996's looting frenzy. That milestone incident was sparked by an attempt to arrest General Roosevelt Johnson, leader of United Liberation Movement for Democracy-Johnson (ULIMO-J). Fighters from all factions descended on the city, turning it into a combat zone and stealing what they could carry off and destroying what they couldn't. After days of fierce fighting, ECOMOG pacified the city. Monrovia remained under its control through this July's presidential election. (See accompanying article.)

### Killing For Food

The West African troops had set out to disarm "the boys" as part of the U.N.-spon-

by either ULIMO-J or ULIMO-Kromah. Nobody knows for sure. Rumor has it that the villagers were killed by fighters looking to steal provisions just delivered by aid workers. The bizarre twist in the wake of this tragedy was that near-starving people all over the surrounding area then *refused* to accept emergency food supplies for fear of suffering the same fate.

### Out Of Control

At a village not far from Sinje, the situation becomes clearer as sick and hungry civilians asked ECOMOG for protection. Just across the way from the food center, teen-aged gunmen were standing around trying to act dangerous. They didn't look



**NPFL fighters listen to instructions by ECOMOG troops before surrendering weapons to U.N. monitors.**

like much, but that's the irony of Liberia. They were, in fact, killers, and they were out of control.

With potential flash points throughout the country, and ECOMOG troop strength at less than 8,500, Force Commander Major Gen. Victor Malu had to use his limited manpower strategically and not for "putting out fires."

Instead of a military operation to clean up the corridor to the town of Bo-Waterside and the northwestern border with Sierra Leon, U.N. officials quietly elicited the cooperation of a powerful factional "general" who later drove up in a stolen U.N. vehicle, then beat and tortured some of the errant "fighters" into obedience.

This is war in much of Liberia: armed thugs intimidating each other and everyone else. From time to time there are even some real exchanges of fire between the fighters.

### Going Up-Country

Some of the heavier fighting, between Taylor's NPFL and George Boley's considerably smaller LPC, occurred in the dense tropical forests of the southeastern region. That's where we were headed.

As we left the coastal area, we were waved on by soldiers of the Nigerian battal-



ion (NIBATT) sitting in the shade of palm trees at the Kakata checkpoint some 60 kilometers northeast of Monrovia.

From here on, it seemed as if everyone with a gun had a checkpoint. Even some of the people who apparently didn't have guns had checkpoints (although one could assume that they had guns and just weren't showing them).

The boys' checkpoints were even less

impressive than the Monrovia NIBATT's old refrigerators and car parts: They just blocked the road with a rope or piece of chain, which was lowered after you were cleared. The purpose obviously was not protection but *collection*. The boys do a lucrative business in payoffs at their factional toll booths.

About a dozen "checkpoints" later we reached Gbarnga, the seat of Taylor's power. Of all the Liberian factions, the NPFL is the closest to a real military organization. More of their fighters have passed the age of puberty than in any other, although someone told me that it was the NPFL that created the "Small Boy Units" (SBUs).

While children are used as soldiers in other places, the extent of their participation in the Liberian war is staggering. More than 15,000 kids, some no older than seven or eight, have fought for one faction or another. These kids blindly followed the directions of feared commanders — often only teenagers themselves. They carried weapons, manned checkpoints, served as bodyguards, engaged in close combat, and carried out assassinations.

The SBUs had a reputation for unwavering, lethal violence. Physically and psychologically extreme training methods programmed them to kill without question. They were frequently given the most critical tasks because they were considered more reliable than older boys who might question orders or be tempted by women, money, and the chance for looting.

### Lean Rations And Juju

In Gbarnga, the deep chanting of male voices echoed in the quiet emptiness of the early morning.

About 100 fighters were dancing in a mass huddle, waving their weapons over their heads in time to their chant, as their commanders encouraged the ritual. The proud young men were preparing to return to the battlefield in the bush where their

## A NEW START?

The man who sparked Liberia's seven-year civil war, NPFL leader Charles Taylor, in July was elected president in a landslide victory. "Africa has won, the international community has won," Taylor, 49, was quoted in the Western media as saying.

He reportedly received more than 75% of the vote. Liberians turned out in large numbers to cast ballots in a generally peaceful, national election. (Since 1990, affairs of state were conducted by an interim government appointed by ECOWAS under a brokered peace plan.)

In 1989, warlord Taylor launched an invasion of Liberia from the neighboring Ivory Coast. One of the more than 150,000 Liberians who would die in the devastating conflict was President Samuel Doe, killed by rebels in 1990. Ten years earlier, Master Sgt. Doe led a military coup that ended nearly 150 years of Americo-Liberian domination of national politics.

In 1822, the first group of freed slaves from the United States settled in an area that eventually would be the site of the capital, Monrovia. They were supported by the American Colonization Society, a private anti-slavery group. The colonists declared Liberia to be a republic in 1847, to the displeasure of French and British colonial powers in West Africa. Moreover, the new inhabitants were considered foreigners by (often hostile) indigenous African tribes. The Americo-Liberians established a tiny government based on the U.S. model; even the design of their flag was borrowed from the Stars and Stripes.

Liberia's history in the following 100 years was troubled, particularly during World War I. There were periodic U.S. interventions — economic and military — to prop up Monrovia.

By 1993, Liberia had an estimated 2.8 million inhabitants. However, many have been displaced by the civil war. That conflict also has crippled the economy of Liberia, which relies largely on U.S. and European purchases of its iron ore, rubber, timber, and coffee.



—SOF staff





In Monrovia, factional fighters — including many children — surrender ordinance and firearms to ECOMOG troops. Dozens of assault rifles of various makes plus general-purpose machine guns and RPGs are taken in during one day of arms collection. One man shows off a revolver he retained after “disarmament.”

daily lives would be a struggle against the terrain and their LPC enemies.

The fighters lead a hard existence out in the unforgiving tropical forest. None of the corrupting comforts of Monrovia; out here it's cane juice and bush meat and hours of walking through the hot, humid and dense brush, exposed to the threat of enemy ambush. War in the bush is conducted on a low level of intensity, but it goes on daily. It is highly colored by the strong belief in folk magic, known as *juju*, held by so many of these fighters. Many of them carry amulets or charms to shield them from their enemies' magic as well as their bullets.

Apart from the “generals,” the fighters wear street clothes and plastic flip-flops instead of uniforms and boots. Protected by folk magic and psyched-up for battle, these unruly fighters at the Gbarnga gathering were headed toward the same place we were.

### Cold Beer Despite War

After a six-hour drive over the most hideous roads this side of the Guinean border, we arrived at our destination, Tappita.

In November 1996, as ECOMOG began deploying into areas that had until that time been completely under factional control, a few companies of Nigerian troops were inserted in Tappita and Zwedru. These two major towns straddled the jungle battlefield. Between them lay front line of the LPC-NPFL conflict.

ECOMOG soldiers quickly took a measure of control in the two towns but, by and large, they only coexisted with the much larger factional forces around them. The Nigerians placed their checkpoints on both sides of the battlefield, with nothing in between but bush. That was controlled by the LPC and NPFL. Occasionally, one or the other of the NIBATTs would send out a mounted patrol with orders not to leave the road unless attacked. The idea wasn't to confront the fighters but “enforce the peace.” And since these troops didn't really have the firepower, will, or mandate to take part in the fighting if they could avoid it, they seemed quite happy to simply “show the flag.”

Our first important stop in Tappita was “Kings and Queens”: a primitive jungle bar owned by 20-something “General Powers.” It is the only place with a generator for miles; the beer is moderately cold if you



At ECOMOG-run disarmament site in Gbarnga, stronghold of NPFL, member of a “Small Boy Unit” displays a Kalashnikov rifle and the cold-eyed look of a killer.

arrive late enough in the evening. (It's strange how in seven years of war, with the entire country in shambles, the Club beer factory escaped almost completely unscathed.)

We walked in the back where the tin-sounding music blasting from broken speakers was loudest, and sat across from the bar. A few rough-looking guys danced among themselves: NPFL fighters.

Soon we were joined by two men in civilian clothes accompanied by a uniformed soldier armed with an assault rifle. These were the local ECOMOG commander, Captain Ewa, and his lieutenant, Johnson. The officers were planning to send out a patrol in a show of force along the Zwedru road.

Captain Ewa's company is one of the more professional units working in Liberia. The Nigerian force doesn't receive specific training in peacekeeping operations, and there is wide range in the quality of their troops here. Ewa nonetheless instinctively knew the best way to operate in this situation.

He and Johnson spent time talking to the fighters in neutral places like “Kings and Queens,” getting information and developing a rapport with the “generals.” This enabled him to keep the area under tenuous control. In

addition to confidence-building patrols and security checkpoints, Ewa himself visited local villages and talked with civilian leaders to obtain their trust and cooperation. This paid off in tips about weapons caches that his men could seize when the time was right.

### Bush Patrol

Just after the Nigerian troops' sunrise formation there was a short briefing in which the rules of engagement were reviewed.

This was to be a show of force to let the fighters on both sides know that ECOMOG was here. Ewa had told Powers and the other local NPFL leaders that his soldiers would be on patrol, but that was no guarantee “the boys” wouldn't snipe at them on that lonely jungle road. The rules of engagement were simple: Fire if fired upon, otherwise, don't confront the fighters; just show the ECOMOG is there and that this road is open.

We moved out around 0700, past the last ECOMOG checkpoint and down the dirt road on an overgrown path into the no-man's land between NPFL and LPC forces. No one except the fighters had traveled this road since April.

The heat scorched our throats and left us dry and thirsty and covered with dust. The ruins of decimated villages being reclaimed by the brush gave the word “remote” a new meaning. And yet the fighters were there in the bush, unseen, all around us.

After last night's meeting between Ewa and the owner of “Kings and Queens,” the NPFL boys had been ordered to stay out of sight. There were obvious signs of their recent activities, though: coconut shells, palm fronds, spent rifle cartridges, and a human skull planted atop a post.

There are a lot of stories about ritualistic cannibalism out here which many of the fighters themselves claim to be true. A very nonmilitary belief in the power of *juju* accounts for some of them. The boys explain that sometimes fighters would eat the heart or other organs of a particularly feared opponent to obtain his strength. There were even tales about someone called “Rambo Killer” who, the boys swore, had such powerful magic that no bullet could kill him.

*Continued on page 69*



# GIs IN THE GULAG

by "Cicero"

## PART 2

Last month, "Cicero" acquainted us with a Russian general, "Ivan Pavlovich," who in his 36 years of military service, compiled a notebook of stark statistics: incidents of American pilots being airlifted to Moscow for brutal, drug-induced interrogations, after which they were promptly overdosed and cremated.

In this segment, we learn of the political machinations by the Clinton coterie to secret these atrocities from the American public in favor of further bridge-building with Boris Yelstin and his group of "enlightened" supporters.

First, despite many sensational claims, there simply had not been "hundreds" of surviving Missing-in-Action (MIA) candidates available for transfer to the Soviet Union. Most aircrews who might interest the Soviets were either killed in their loss incidents or captured soon thereafter. In addition, the majority of the 2,000-odd still-unresolved MIA cases are ground troops lost in South Vietnam, not high-skill aviators. Further, the U.S. Military Assistance Command-Vietnam's Studies and Observa-

tion Group (MACV-SOG), which was responsible for tracking MIAs through Indochina during the war, had records on fewer than 200 aviator MIAs who were known to have survived their shootdowns, but never appeared in the communists' central prison system. Most were later determined to have died of wounds or were killed by their captors en route north.

Declassified and public accounts have analyzed the fates of several hundred aircrew shot down in North Vietnam and Laos, comparing specialist aviators from technically advanced aircraft with pilots of low-

### Clinton Administration Deserts MIAs' Families For New Russian Friends.



Barnabas Hodossy was a Hungarian national who fought for the Germans against the Russians during WW II. He returned to Hungary after the war and was arrested by the communist secret police in 1948. While imprisoned in a labor camp near Vorkuta he witnessed four Americans also being held captive who, after a few days, vanished, never to be seen again. Hodossy was released in 1955, escaped from Hungary, made his way to the U.S. and joined the Army, where he was made an intelligence specialist. Above photo dates from the mid-1960s.



Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge indicates track of unarmed U.S. aircraft downed by Soviets to U.N. Security Council. Soviets were responsible for downing well over a dozen U.S. planes during the Cold War era. Declassified documents from U.S. government agencies indicate a number of crewmen survived.



tech planes. Indochina shootdown records for the entire war, divided by type of aircraft and geographical site show that technical specialty did not influence the fate of the crew. If the Soviets had deployed a huge "dragnet" across Indochina, with the center of the secret operation in Hanoi, these analyses should have rendered significant results.

### "Refuge" Hanoi

Instead, both government and private analysts found that the most significant factor influencing the fate of an airman was *where* he was shot down, not his specialty. Men lost in the southern provinces of North Vietnam or in Laos were much more likely to become unaccounted MIA than those lost near Hanoi. The closer to Hanoi an airman was shot down, the better his chances of survival as a POW. This pattern held across the board, no matter how specialized the airman's training or type of plane. The Soviet Union almost certainly did not concentrate their sophisticated selection and snatch teams in the trackless jungles, rather than in Hanoi. So, General "Pavlovich"'s assertion that the Soviets were able to pry only a few Americans from North Vietnamese control seemed to stand up.

But I was fascinated to hear someone for the first time state with such certainty that "about 30" Americans had been shipped from Indochina to the gulag.

"How can you be sure, General?" I asked, deciding to press harder. "We've all heard rumors."

Sighing, he filled our glasses with flat champagne. "I have a ... young relative who married an *osobist* [an undercover member of the KGB's Special Department posing as a regular military officer]. She is divorced now. The man bragged of the operation."

More hearsay, I thought, disappointed. Once again, no details. One problem with this scenario remains unsolved to the present day: No returning American POWs have positively identified fellow living prisoners who were seen alive in the central prison system but who were not repatriated or known to have died in captivity. That meant that either the North Vietnamese had a secret, parallel prison system into which they shunted likely candidates for Soviet abduction, or this selection was made quickly at Hoa Lo Prison ("The Hanoi Hilton") before the unlucky prisoner's presence became known to his comrades. To me, the latter was the most likely scenario.

The interrogation center just inside the tunnel entrance of Hoa Lo Prison, known to POWs as "Heartbreak Hotel," was large enough that newly arrived POWs undergoing brutal initial interrogation could have been kept segregated from their fellow prisoners. Certainly, KGB officers could have secretly supervised the initial processing of incoming POWs. We know that Soviet advisors helped run the massive North Vietnamese SAM-2 missile network ringing Hanoi. When word came that a certain type of American aircraft had been shot down and the crew captured, it would have been

easy to intervene and snatch the prisoner.

When retired U.S. Army General John Vessey became President Bush's personal emissary to Vietnam on POW/MIA affairs, he formalized a list of approximately 190 priority *discrepancy* cases: men who almost certainly were captured alive, but of whom the Vietnamese stubbornly claimed to have no knowledge. Again, however, there is no indication that the discrepancy list contained an unusually high proportion of airmen with sensitive and sophisticated technical or tactical skills or training.

Now I was trying to nail down at least a few of the elusive details, but the general did not seem capable of providing any.

"Pavlovich" sensed my dissatisfaction. He turned his logbook pages with precise deliberation. "You are familiar with the

exactly the equivalent of the Americans'."

"And this information came from prisoners of war who were taken to the Soviet Union?"

"That is my understanding," "Pavlovich" said. "But you can easily verify the dates. Ask your intelligence people when Soviet Frontal Aviation began to match exactly your tactical atomic weapons bombing regimen. They will tell you."

I did exactly that. When I got back to the States, I called an old friend who'd been a NATO military intelligence officer stationed in Germany in the early 1970s. He confirmed that the Soviet Air Force began training with a "carbon copy" of our LABS tactical nuke delivery system when the MiG-23 was deployed on Warsaw Pact bases. This was more evidence that "Pavlovich" had at least



U.S. Air Force photo

When you care enough to send the best. High-angle shot of A-7s armed with MK-82 bombs heading for targets in North Vietnam.

low-level, high-air-speed approach to releasing a battlefield atomic weapon?"

I nodded. He was referring to what the Pentagon designated the Low Altitude Bombing System (LABS) in the early 1960s. A fighter-bomber, originally the F-100 Super Sabre, approached the target near Mach 1, right down on the deck, then pitched up in a precisely timed maneuver and climbed at an exact angle to release the bomb at a computer-designated altitude. The weapon then acquired its own trajectory, continuing in a parabolic curve until detonation over the target. This tactic had several advantages. The low, fast approach brought the fighter-bomber in under the enemy radar and surface-to-air missile threat. Also, the curving "pitch" of the weapon gave the pilot the opportunity to escape the blast.

"Both the Soviet allies and America had developed forms of this system by 1962," "Pavlovich" explained. "But ours was not as precise as yours. Then, in 1966, we learned the details of the American procedures and we changed our methods. The MiG-23 *Krokodil* was the first fighter to use the new bombing procedure, which was

some solid information.

"What other technologies?" I asked, determined to get my money's worth.

"Pavlovich" studied his notes. "The electronic arming procedures for battlefield nuclear bombs," he said, obviously uncomfortable, but also ready to keep his side of the bargain. "We adopted your safety system, which we learned from American prisoners."

Again, "Pavlovich"'s assertion was supported by others. In May 1989, a Soviet Air Force captain named Alexander Zuyev defected from his base in the Georgian Republic, flying a sophisticated MiG-29 to a civilian airport in Turkey. In his published memoir, *Fulcrum, A Top Gun's Escape From the Soviet Empire*, Zuyev details his own training with tactical nuclear weapons. He was at an exercise in Central Asia when he questioned an officer from the Strategic Rocket Forces about the origin of the dual-channel electronically coded arming procedure for the 36-kiloton nuke design for low-altitude delivery by the MiG-29. The officer told Zuyev that the Soviet air force had adapted this system from American procedures:

"The American methods, we obtained



from several U.S. Air Force 'guests,' nuclear-qualified pilots our fraternal Socialist comrades in Vietnam provided us during that Imperialist war." When Zuyev asked if these American POWs had revealed the information in Vietnam or in the USSR, the officer assured him they had been transported to the Soviet Union.

Task Force Russia saw this information as highly significant and debriefed Zuyev extensively following publication of the book.

Realizing that "Pavlovich" was delivering solid information, I asked him about other sensitive and sophisticated technology the Soviets had received from American POWs abducted from Indochina.

"We also obtained the aerodynamic maxima of your F-4 Phantom, F-105 Thunderchief, and A-6 Intruder during missile-evasion maneuvers. For this I can speak from personal knowledge. I was at the test center when the data were delivered. We were told they came from original sources."

"All this came from interrogation of prisoners in the Soviet Union?"

"Certainly," he said, a bit annoyed at my stupid question. "We did not have test centers and engineering teams in Hanoi or Vientiane."

Although this was true, there certainly had been Soviet technical intelligence teams in Indochina searching for sensitive American hardware that survived the shoot-downs. It was just such a team that shipped the escape capsule from an F-111 that crashed in Indochina in 1972 to the Soviet Union. In 1992, members of Task Force Russia photographed the F-111 escape capsule on display at the Moscow Aviation Institute. Because the capsule's serial number was damaged, the investigators were not certain if it came from a November 1972 shootdown in which the crew had been declared "poor candidates for survival," or from a December loss in which the crew simply disappeared, even though the North Vietnamese photographed their escape capsule in pristine condition with a fully deployed parachute still attached.

I'd always found it counter-intuitive to believe that the large Soviet military assistance program in Indochina was not "tasked" to obtain technical information on American weapons and tactics. As "Pavlovich" now confirmed, this assignment would have certainly concentrated on

new aircraft and weapons that were often deployed to the Vietnam war before arriving in the frontline NATO units arrayed against Warsaw Pact forces in Europe.

### "Red Carpet" Flights

I continued to probe "Pavlovich" for details. "You have no idea how the prisoners were taken from Indochina?"

"Almost certainly by special military flights from Hanoi. As to the actual interro-

The old officer discretely left to brew tea while I conducted the business transaction with Boris, carefully counting out the crisp \$100 bills until I reached the fee we had agreed on. In theory, this was not a payment, but a *prezant*, a small "gift." The exchange satisfied that venerable Soviet-era adage, *ruka ruku moyet*, "One hand washes the other."

Boris escorted me out of the apartment complex and thanked me for the generous compensation. I walked through Izmailovsky Park to the southern entrance of the Metro. Although I had spent less than two hours with General "Pavlovich," he had given me a lot to consider. Unfortunately, he had not provided many concrete facts, such as exact numbers of prisoners transferred, firm dates, and places of captivity. The general had, however, offered hard information that I could now verify with American sources.

Courtesy F.C. Brown



This photo depicting a portion of the notorious Lefortovo Prison in Moscow was clandestinely shot by a Westerner in the 1960s. Lefortovo was used, along with other prisons, as a way station for foreigners, including Americans, on their way to the gulag.

gation centers, I can only guess any of several "closed" facilities." He smiled ruefully. "We used to have any number of them."

"And then ... after successful interrogation?"

He snapped shut the book's leather covers. "That would have been the duty of the *osobisti*. They had an expression, 'The Highest Order of Punishment,' execution." His scowl was almost grotesque. "My friend, I am sorry my country is ruined. But I am glad all that is behind us."

Leaving the park I entered one of the broad, Khrushchev-era boulevards that appeared strangely empty in the midday sun. Then I heard a faint drumbeat and saw a column of school kids marching despondently onto the avenue from a side street, returning to their buses from the Victory Day parade. Watching the teenagers pass, I glimpsed the realities of the New Russia. One class of high school kids was decked out in green fatigues with matching berets and the sailor-striped jerseys of the Red Army Airborne. They marched smartly behind a pink-cheeked poster-boy Russian kid with blond hair and Aryan blue eyes, who proudly held the old red hammer-and-sickle banner of the Soviet Union. Behind this class was a clump of kids wearing a hodge-podge of civilian dress, ranging from Levi jackets to black heavy metal T-shirts, to micro-miniskirts. They didn't bother to keep in step and laughed derisively at the uniformed fanatics marching ahead.

Across the street, three shiny new Blazers, their smoked windows almost black, were triple-parked at defiant angles on the sidewalk. They guarded a chrome-and-neon restaurant entrance, the haunt of the neighborhood mafia don. I could picture the scene inside: mega-decibel rock and tables full of imported Finnish vodka and Corona beer. The local "goodfellas" were celebrating the holiday in their own way.

Entering the Metro, I understood that the



scene on the street did, indeed, represent the harsh realities of Russia today. With the exception of the Old Left school kids playing paratrooper, nobody gave a good Goddamn about the Soviet past. People were simply too preoccupied with either eking out a living in this cutthroat new free market economy or — in the case of the mafia — making a killing, both virtually and literally. For everyone I'd encountered on this trip, the years before 1991 were ancient history. Investigating the fates of a handful of American "imperialist air pirates" was hardly a national priority. More to the point, the new state security bureaucracies were certainly not interested in dredging up scandals from their previous incarnations.

Down in the echoing marble Metro station, I waited impatiently for the train. The trip was over. I'd gotten as much information as I could in Russia.

### Northern Virginia, June 1997

I met my contact at a Mexican restaurant in a shopping mall off the interstate. The lunch-time crowd was mixed yuppies from the surrounding high-tech belt. "Bill Jones" was a former Pentagon official familiar with the intelligence take of Task Force Russia. Since he was speaking off the record, I agreed to protect his identity.

"Jones" had helped analyze the information obtained during the TFR investigations in Russia. It was safe to say that he knew as much about the subject of American POWs transferred to the USSR during the Vietnam War as any American source.

Over iced tea and enchiladas, I told "Jones" everything I had learned from General "Pavlovich." "Jones" had the knack of absorbing details without taking notes, a skill I had never mastered. When I had finished my account, I studied his face for any reaction. His expression remained neutral.

"Well," I finally said, "what do you think? Was 'Pavlovich' just jerking my chain?"

"Jones" pursed his lips and glanced around the nearby tables. "To the best of my knowledge and experience," he said, carefully choosing his words, *everything* that officer told you was true."

### Task Force Russia

I felt a wave of relief. If I had not hit a home run in Russia, at least I hadn't been on an expensive wild goose chase. "Everything?" I asked, "the information about the LABS and the tactical nuke arming codes, and the SAM-avoidance aerodynamic maneuvers ... that all came from American POWs?"

"All that and quite a bit of more arcane electronic warfare technology," "Jones" said.

"And it was a KGB operation in Hanoi, not GRU?"

"That's what TFR learned in the course of their investigation."

"I would have guessed the GRU would have gotten into the act, since the operation definitely involved military hardware."



North Vietnamese village militia strips engine of American C-130 after shootdown. NVA "marksmanship" rapidly improved after Soviet interrogations of American fliers gleaned an abundance of technical data.



U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Pete Peterson (left) are greeted by Colonel Jonathan Chase in Hanoi Friday, 27 June 1997. Albright said the search for American MIAs remains Washington's top priority in relations with Vietnam. Chase heads the Hanoi office of the Joint Task Force for Full Accounting of American servicemen still missing from the Vietnam War.

"Jones" refilled his tea glass. "That wasn't the case," he said. "Let me tell you why I'm so certain."

He went into some detail, explaining how Task Force Russia had been organized to exploit the obvious "window" of openness following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. There had been a period of "euphoria," he explained, during all of 1992 and part of 1993. The former Organs of State Security had been in disarray and under attack by the recently freed news media. Moreover, the Americans had mod-

est amounts of hard currency to spend for the "logistical" costs of the investigation.

"TFR decided to attack the weakest point," "Jones" explained. "That was Korea."

The abduction of American POWs during the Korean War, he added, had been a GRU operation from start to finish. But it had been typically heavy-handed. In the last years of Stalinism, virtually no one foresaw the eventual collapse of the Soviet Union. "Their operational security was terrible," "Jones" noted. *Hundreds* of American POWs, many still in uniform, were openly transported, then processed through the gulag system. That left thousands of eyewitnesses among surviving gulag inmates, guards, and military technical specialists.

"Did any survive?" I knew the answer, but had to ask.

"Jones" shook his head. "Not a one. The trip into the gulag was a one-way street. Once they had what they needed, the Soviets eliminated the Americans."

"What about Vietnam?"

"Jones" frowned. "I'm certain they're all dead, too. But I wish I had more to tell you. TFR was getting close when everything just dried up in ninety-three."

"After the October counter-coup?"

"That's correct," Jones said without hesitation. He added that I had been right in my assumption that the Yeltsin government had sold out to the former KGB and Interior Ministry. "They'd gotten some cooperation arranging interviews," he said. "But then they hit a stone wall. Suddenly their sources just dried up."

But he added that Task Force Russia had acquired some *hard evidence* on the Soviet exploitation and transfer of American POWs during the Vietnam War.

First, "Jones" noted, the operation had

*Continued on page 70*



## Iraq's/Iran's/ Syria's/Libya's Nuclear Threat Against Humanity

# Islam A-BOMB

by Al J. Venter

**T**he concept of a nuclear device is simple and it is known to all nuclear powers, and in principle to myriad nuclear wannabees. The devil — and the salvation — however, is in the detail. A miniaturized gun-type nuclear bomb weighs a few hundred pounds. At one end rest several pounds of precisely formed, highly enriched uranium (HEU). At the other end of a barrel-shaped device (thus the name) is more HEU. With the ignition of propellants, the small plug of HEU travels down the barrel to mate with the larger piece into a supercritical assembly.

Such a bomb is crude. It is dirty. It has a yield of about two or three kilotons, with massive radioactive fallout. But it is adequate for the intended purpose, as it will kill many people and cause great destruction. It is known in the trade as a "suitcase nuke."

With a great deal more expertise, a few grams of tritium could be added, which was the way the South Africans were headed. The yield of such a fission device would be boosted eight or 10 times, enough to level a fairly large city. Or much of downtown Manhattan.

All this, basically, is what research boffins in Iraq were aiming for when they launched Saddam Hussein's ambitious



**The major nuclear powers soon supplanted their early bombs with more powerful, more compact, more efficient and cleaner bombs: the theory was, if they were too terrible to use, they would not have to be.**

nuclear program, until they were stymied by Operation Desert Storm. Meanwhile, Tehran continues with its quest for what is termed the "Islamic bomb." The *Iranians*, however, have the single advantage of a number of rogue former Soviet and other nuclear scientists to help them in their quest.

Strong evidence from an unlikely source indicates that Iran is engaged in a nuclear-weapons program, which, according to a source at the U.S. State Department, is "not conducive to strictly peaceful programs, as should be the case with a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty." And by all accounts, it is quite ambitious by Third World standards.

In May 1995, in a rare interview given to an American television network, Iranian President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani told an ABC reporter that his country neither had nuclear weapons nor was it seeking to acquire or to develop them. "If [Washington] can prove a single case, then we will accept all other allegations," he told ABC.

Rafsanjani's statement is significant for several reasons, the first of which is that he is simply not telling the truth. It was one of the rare occasions that anyone in Iran, least of all the Head of State, had allowed himself to be to be drawn into a discussion on the subject. Second, there is a large body of evidence which suggests that Iran is engaged in exactly such a venture. In one of his comments on the subject, former Secretary of State Warren Christopher said, "Based on a wide variety of data, we know that since the mid-1980s, Iran has had an organized structure dedicated to



acquiring and developing nuclear weapons." All of it was secret, he added.

"In organization, programs, procurement and covert activities," he continued, "Iran is pursuing the classic route to nuclear weapons which has been followed by almost all states that have recently sought a nuclear capability." Here he was referring specifically to Iraq, where, because of a weak industrial infrastructure that could not support the demands of a nuclear effort, it needed to seek personnel, technology, equipment and materials for developing such weapons abroad.

Now that President Rafsanjani is about to be succeeded by President-elect Mohammed Khatemi, he might wish to clarify the nature and purpose of a visit to South Africa early last year by the Deputy Minister for Atomic Affairs, Reza Amrollahi.

### Secrets Of State And Treachery

Revolutionary Iran has always been taciturn about such matters. It is particularly guarded about foreign movement of government personnel. This visit was no exception. Amrollahi's travel plans and itinerary were known only to those directly involved with his visit, which was apparently sanctioned by President Nelson Mandella at the behest of several members of the South African cabinet who are themselves Muslims. All are known for their strong ideological ties to radical Islamic states such as Iran, Libya and Syria. The Deputy Minister's visit included a call to the South African nuclear facility at Pelindaba, a huge industrial complex lying in the hills to the west of the capital, Pretoria.

Dr. Waldo Stumpf, Chief Executive Officer of the Atomic Energy Corporation of South Africa, was told at very short notice by the president's office to prepare to meet the man whom, he was informed, was already on his way. At that point, he was

given only his designation. Obviously, because of his own connections within the nuclear community, he knew exactly who Amrollahi was.

There was little that Dr. Stumpf, himself a physicist (though not a participant in the South African nuclear weapons program), could do about the visit. If there had been time, he would have liked to arrange for one of the international observers to be present, someone from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). There was, however, no time. In any event, the IAEA has only a monitoring role and it does not have personnel permanently stationed at Pelindaba.

To Stumpf, the implications of the Iranian visit were obvious. During a meeting at his office on 30 May of this year, he disclosed that he was determined not to meet the visitor alone. Consequently, he contacted his immediate superior, Mr. Pik Botha, then South Africa's Minister for Mineral and Energy Affairs in the new Coalition Government. The Atomic Energy Corporation fell within Botha's bailiwick.

Stumpf said that he and Botha met the visitor at Pelindaba and that the encounter began in a friendly fashion. Then the Iranian handed him a file, which contained a comprehensive list of items needed for manufacturing nuclear weapons. According to Dr. Stumpf there were some very advanced things solicited: blueprints, industrial, chemical and laboratory equipment and other essentials required for the production of weapons of mass destruction. Stumpf intimated that both he and the Minister were stunned.

The South Africans rejected the request. Stumpf told Amrollahi that in accordance with the provisions of the NPT, there was no way that either he or members of his staff at Pelindaba could comply. He pointed out that not only had South Africa recently signed the NPT, but it had destroyed its own nuclear weapons arsenal.

Also, he said, since Iran was a NPT signatory, the nature of the visit, consequently, was compromising. The South Africans were being asked to break international law.

He reminded his guest of what had happened not long before in Iraq. Once the names of all the German scientists recruited by Saddam Hussein had become known in the weapons strip-search by the IAEA Action Team and the UN Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM), warrants of arrest had been issued. At least one of those involved in the Iraqi nuclear effort was charged with treason and was still in jail, he added.

He told the Iranian minister that it simply would not be possible for the South Africans to comply. Besides, said Dr. Stumpf, there were international safeguards in place at Pelindaba for exactly that kind of proposition.

### The Above Notwithstanding ...

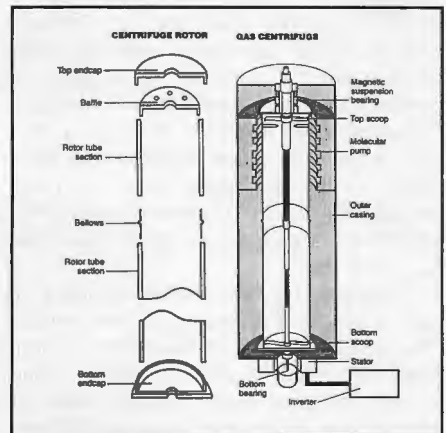
It has recently become clear that Tehran has made considerable progress towards developing nuclear weapons.

Nuclear research is taking place at various locations in the country. In a country as big and, in places, as remote as Alaska, it is impossible to keep track of all developments, but some details are known.

According to Iranian expatriate sources — some with the *Mojahedine-e-Khalq*, an Iranian opposition group in exile (classified as a terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department, but a valuable source of information, nonetheless) — there is already a growing nuclear cadre of 3,000 personnel at work at various sites in Isfahan, 400 kilometers south of the capital city of Tehran. A second, top-secret weapons design center is



"Little Boy," the atomic bomb used at Hiroshima, was of the "gun-type" and weighed some 9,700 pounds. This is the type of bomb that Iran, 52 years later, is trying to build. (inset) The schematics of such a device are simple.



The schematics of nuclear devices may be simple, but their execution can be very difficult. Not only do the devices themselves require incredibly precise and exotic physical engineering, but production of the nuclear components themselves are far beyond normal extractive metallurgy and refining techniques. For instance, to isolate fissionable U-235, metallic U-235 and U-238 are converted to a fluoride gas; gravimetric separation of the desired U-235 is accomplished in a high-speed gas centrifuge, and the U-235 hexafluoride gas then reconverted to elemental U-235. Drawing: from "Iraq's Shop-Till-You-Drop Nuclear Program."

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Vol. 48, No. 3 (Apr. 1992), used by permission.





The prize for a terrorist state is to be able to threaten neighbors, civilized nations, whomever, with such destruction that they will bend to their will. Unrestrained by civilized instincts, a Khadaffi, Saddam or Khomeini with such capability and nothing much to lose might have everything to gain.

located at Moallam Kelaieh near the Caspian Sea. Like most other nuclear facilities, both are run by the nuclear unit of the Revolutionary Guards (*Pasdaran*) which falls directly under the office of the president. (*Critical Mass: The Dangerous Race for Superweapons in a Fragmenting World* by William Burrows & Robert Windrem, Simon & Schuster, NY 1994.) It is significant that *Pasdaran* also controls the activities of the revolutionary guerrilla movement *Hezbollah*, which is active against Israeli forces in South Lebanon.

Two other nuclear research sites are located at the large nuclear power plant at Bushehr on the Gulf and at Tehran's obscure Sharif University, long suspected as the cradle of Iran's nuclear program. A source at the Israeli embassy in Washington indicated in an interview with this writer that because so much attention had been given to the university, these activities probably have been fragmented and moved elsewhere, largely because of the fear of an air strike.

Following the Israeli Air Force attack on the Iraqi 40-MW materials test-reactor Tammuz-1 at Osirak in June 1981, Tehran tends to spread its strategic assets about. Secrecy covering every possible aspect of the program is awesome, the Israeli Military Attaché said.

At Bushehr, however, where the search for nuclear arms was originally begun by the Shah in the sixties, work goes on, even though the power plant, which was started by a Siemens subsidiary, was badly damaged in the war with Iraq.

Meanwhile the original decision — when revolutionary mullahs decided that nuclear energy and weapons was un-Islamic — has been reversed. Rafsanjani noted in 1989 that "Iran cannot ignore the nuclear reality in the modern world."

Since then there has been a lot of effort



The balance of terror during the Cold War was maintained in a structured (if not civilized) fashion among rational (if not friendly) nations who all had a lot to lose if there were a nuclear exchange.

at trying to acquire foreign know-how and technology. Pakistan was asked for uranium gas centrifuge technology and agreed to train Iranian nuclear scientists at its Institute for Nuclear Science and Technology near Islamabad. Argentina was approached and Buenos Aires, initially, responded favorably. Reactors were sought from China, Russia and India. Washington has managed to block only some of these projects.

### The Search For Toys

The Iranians have been most active in trying to acquire weapons-usable nuclear materials; plutonium or weapons-grade uranium. The Rand Corporation estimates that 4 kg of plutonium, or 15 kg of 90% HEU, are required to make a primitive atomic bomb in the kiloton range. This is the same implosion-type weapon, incidentally, that first Iraq, and now Iran, have been trying to develop with a yield estimated at between 10 and 20 kilotons.

Certainly the acquisition of fissionable

material has been a formidable obstacle in the path of all Third World nations trying to build the bomb. Libya's Khadaffi, having made tentative moves towards building a bomb, eventually gave it up and decided to buy them instead. According to Judith Miller, formerly head of the *New York Times* bureau in Cairo, a senior presidential aide in Libya told her that Khadaffi had offered India and China \$15 billion each for a single atom bomb. (*God Has Ninety-Nine Names* by Judith Miller, Touchstone, New York, 1997.) Curiously, this is the same man who told her: "I am afraid of nuclear proliferation."

It is not all that surprising, therefore, that there are numerous reports of Iranian agents active in the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union in search of HEU or plutonium. One example will suffice: In November 1994, the United States disclosed that it had completed an airlift of 600 kgs of weapons-grade uranium from Ust-Kamenogorsk in Kazakhstan to the United States. The shipment, packed in 1,300 IAEA steel transport drums, was flown to Dover Air Force base in Delaware and then moved by road to Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Ostensibly — after long and complicated negotiations — the material had been handed over in exchange for U.S. aid. The uranium at the Ulba Metallurgical Plant had been left behind in the confusion of the Soviet collapse, which was possibly not all that surprising since Ulba was believed to have been specializing in low-enriched uranium (LEU) and exotic metals. In any event, work on HEU in Kazakhstan (as elsewhere in the former Soviet Union) was a closely guarded secret.

What worried the Americans was that the Iranians had already visited the plant — even before they were aware that there was HEU there. Iran maintains the second largest embassy in Kazakhstan and even the Russians concede that their intelligence is excellent, often using the talents of dissident Muslims in areas where they are active.

This event, coupled with the fact that Iranians are known to buy their influence with liberal handouts, has been a source of concern to many governments. Certainly, it is a useful ploy in a society where some officials have not been paid for six or eight months. The fact that there are at least a dozen documented cases of Iranian agents trying to buy fissile material in the former Soviet Union or Europe is further evidence of Tehran's long-term objectives.

It is instructive that Washington initially asked the Kazakh Government to block any possible Iranian transactions. As subsequent events have shown, there was obviously enough doubt in the minds of the Americans that the authorities at Ulba were either unable or unwilling to resist Iranian offers and for that reason they took the appropriate action.

### Hopefully, A Near Miss

Iranian opposition groups maintain that there was enough HEU in the consignment



to make 25 bombs of the type dropped on Japan. *But initially, they reckon, there had been more.*

Both they and American specialists involved with the transfer confirmed that for possibly as long as two years, none of it had been properly guarded. Some of the wooden sheds in which the HEU was stored did not have proper locks, and while security personnel at Ulba denied that there had been any movement of the material before the Americans touched it (other reports mention trucks leaving the plant with Iranians), they are hardly likely to admit to a sale, illegal or otherwise. To do so would result in immediate political arrest, a condition that can take years to be resolved at trial.

What is of real concern to the West today — now that some kind of security program has been installed — is that *Ulba was only one of dozens such storage facilities behind the former Iron Curtain.* Also, recent reports out of the CIS indicate that the Russian *Mafiya* is more active than ever and they accept bids from all comers with little regard for long-term political or security implications.

How else in a society where, in March 1994, already, the Russian Federal Counterintelligence service (now the FSB) reported that there had been 900 thefts from military and nuclear plants and 700 items of secret technology stolen in the second half of 1993 alone, much of it insider activity. Shortly afterwards, Stella Rimington, then director-general of Britain's MI5 said: "Some two dozen governments are currently trying to obtain such technology. A number of these countries sponsor or even practice terrorism and we cannot rule out the possibility that these weapons could be used for that purpose."

Clearly, the United States has played a significant role in halting many of the projects initiated by Iran including a request to buy enriched uranium from France, which was turned down.

### **A Perfidious Pattern**

There are pointers and much circumstantial evidence to indicate that a very distinct pattern has emerged in Iran's nuclear weapon program. This is the result, largely, of Western intelligence agencies spending a great deal of effort and resources in attempting to track down leads, ranging from shopping lists (such as that given to Stumpf), informal or diplomatic contacts, procurement programs, supply routes, commercial linkages, underworld contacts, the scrutiny

of sales contracts and shipping documents and a good deal besides.

It also involves dogging the tracks of Iranian agents throughout Europe, the Far East and the former Soviet Union. Judging by results, it has proved to be a remarkable effort. At the 1994 Summit between Clinton and Yeltsin (and others since then) the Russian president was given a five-page, closely typed intelligence document detailing the Tehran nuclear program. This was done specifically to bring Russian-Iranian nuclear cooperation projects to a halt, with (as we now know) little success.

A number of nations are involved in the subterfuge surrounding the Iranian nuclear weapons program. Among these are some CIS states (clandestinely) plus China,

700 kilometers south-west of the capital.

### **Trying All Markets**

Argentina signed a remarkably comprehensive deal costing billions of dollars whereby it agreed to sell Iran a uranium dioxide conversion plant, a fuel fabrication plant, a heavy water pilot plant and fuel cells for reprocessing plutonium. U.S. pressure forced cancellation of the Argentinian contract as well, though it is not certain what, if any of the items were delivered before Washington intervened.

Similarly, Brazil refused to sell Tehran nuclear technology it had developed with Siemens, although some of what Iraq needed was acquired from that German company.

Prior to "watchdog" controls being established among EU nations, Germany proved to be a valuable source of much vital equipment and know-how to some emerging nuclear hopefuls, in much the same way that Karl-Heinz Schaad, a staffer with the multinational (British-German-Dutch) organization Urenco, was able, without company approval, to supply Iraq with designs of the latest uranium-enrichment centrifuge, the TC-11. According to Iranian exiles that the author met in London early in June, it is said that a German technician from Uranit (one of Urenco's shareholders) had dealings

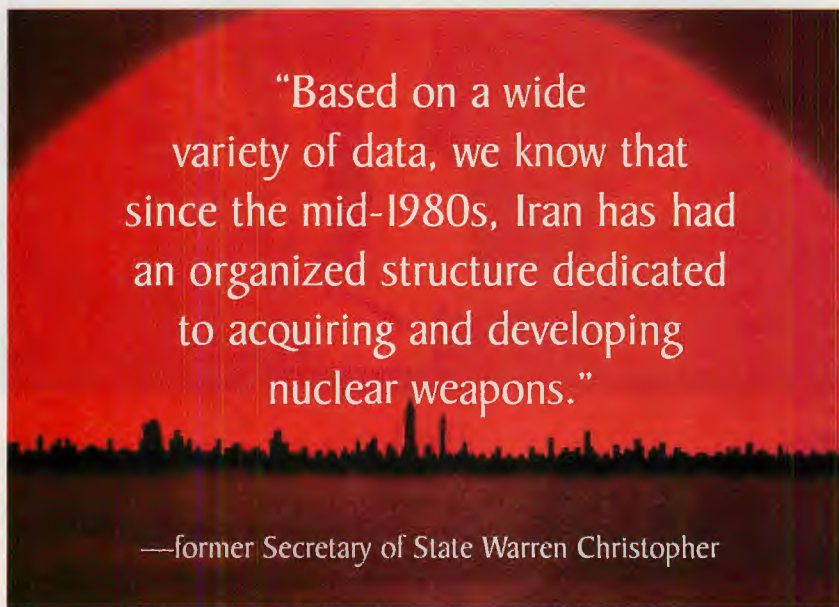
with the Iranians at roughly the same time that he was involved with Iraq.

### **Reading Cards Against The Chest**

The biggest problem facing the West is attempting to penetrate Iran's formidable security mantle. Religion, race and ethnicity all play a role, and Westerners, generally, are not welcome in the country. Most have difficulty obtaining visas unless they have good reason. The movement of foreigners, including diplomats, are monitored and to inquire about something as sensitive as the country's nuclear weapons program invites attention.

There have been a few breaks. Iranian opposition groups do keep close tabs on developments inside the country and, undoubtedly, are well funded by Langley. Individuals such as former Iranian President Abol Hassan Bani Sadr (now living in exile in Europe) have fostered extensive underground contacts including some within government. These are people who have become disillusioned with the hardline fundamentalist politics of the mullahs. There

*Continued on page 67*



“Based on a wide variety of data, we know that since the mid-1980s, Iran has had an organized structure dedicated to acquiring and developing nuclear weapons.”

—former Secretary of State Warren Christopher

Pakistan, India, Cuba and North Korea.

Even before the Stumpf meeting, the Iranians had approached Pretoria to buy hundreds of tons of uranium yellowcake feedstock as well as a small quantity of low-enriched uranium. Some items involving uranium gas ultracentrifuge technology requested from Pakistan (it has subsequently been learned from Iranian opposition sources) have been delivered, as have two calutrons bought from China for 27- and 30-megawatt research reactors. These can be used for electromagnetic separation to produce HEU. The possibility that Iran might subsequently have tried some kind of reverse engineering to produce their own calutron hybrid (as Iraq did) cannot be ruled out.

Cuba was asked to sign a VVER-440 reactor technology agreement, while Germany, Brazil and Spain were approached for assistance to complete the Bushehr project which was partially destroyed by Iraqi warplanes during the Iran-Iraq war. The original deal dates back to the pre-revolutionary period and involved West Germany building two 1,300 megawatt-electric plants, powered by light-water reactors at Bushehr, about





"You! Yankee pig with the camera, 'Uncle Radovan' want your film!"

# The Boys Of Brcko

***Is America Heading For  
A Bosnian Quagmire?***

Text & Photos by  
**Mark H. Milstein**

**Brcko, Bosnia** — The soldiers of 1st Platoon, Delta Company of the U.S. Army's 2/2 Infantry proudly call themselves the "Dogs of War."

But to the Bosnian Serb extremists masquerading as city officials and policemen in this strategic northeastern Bosnian city, the Dogs of War are more bark than bite.

Less than 72 hours after British Special Air Service (SAS) commandos, backed by U.S. Army helicopters, shot and killed one Bosnian Serb war-crimes suspect and captured another in lightning raids just west of here, someone decided to play a little trick on the Dogs of War — they turned most of the signs in Brcko directing traffic to other cities in Bosnia the wrong way.

The sophomoric act of vandalism wasn't enough to disable the U.S.



"The Boys From Brcko" (and the 2/2 Infantry) on the horn to head-quarters. All's quiet for now.



Army's peacekeeping efforts in the area, nor did it even prompt 1st Platoon to strap on extra magazines of ammo during their daily patrol, but it clearly highlighted one of the U.S. Army's biggest problems in Bosnia: How does a conventional fighting force assigned to maintain peace between warring ethnic factions deal with low-level civil disobedience, that if left unchecked could provide enough spark to reignite a greater conflict?

### Pale Riders

That's what *SOF* wanted to find out, and with the looming threat of further NATO-led action to capture more Bosnian Serbs wanted by the War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague, we soon found ourselves in the capital of the Bosnian Serb mini-state, Pale.

"That's [former Bosnian Serb president] Radovan Karadzic's house over there," said *SOF* road dog and U.S.

Army veteran Jim Bartlett, pointing at a deceptively quiet Swiss chalet-like home overlooking the sleepy former ski resort. "See those goons getting into that BMW? They're probably body guards or something."

We quickly photographed the home, which sits within eyesight of NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR) patrols driving to and from Sarajevo, then

drove off to the Hotel Panorama, which doubles as the Bosnian Serb presidency.

With a quick flash of SFOR credentials we drove past Karadzic's office and after parking the *SOF* jeep waltzed into the hotel for a cup of coffee and some atmosphere.

"I think we've been ID'd," Jim said, nodding towards two very large blue cammo-clad Bosnian Serb cops entering the empty restaurant. They seated themselves on the other side of the cavernous room and watched us like hawks as we talked about everything but the real reason for our visit — to see whether Karadzic would be bold enough to show up.

Outside, another Bosnian Serb guard eyed the *SOF* jeep and jotted down its Hungarian license plate number. As the only non-Serbs, we attracted a lot of attention. Our clutch of cameras, *Soldier Of Fortune* magazines and other equipment didn't help matters.

After plowing through four cups of extra-high octane Yugoslav coffee we decided that waiting for Karadzic's capture here was a waste of time. Besides, remaining in the Panorama increased our chances that someone would eventually remove us by force.

It was time to leave.

U.S. Army Armed Forces Network (AFN) was reporting that a U.S. Army soldier was injured earlier that morning north of Pale by an "unknown male" who approached him from behind and stabbed him with a hand-sickle farming tool. It gave



(above) Irate Serb gives Americans Serbian "good-luck" sign as Milstein shoots beginning of an international incident. (left) Jim Bartlett hawks *SOF* subscriptions outside Pale HQ of Radovan Karadzic, statesman in need of a hair stylist — and war criminal.



biggest city, Banja Luka, said that hard-line elements allied to Karadzic had tried to mount a coup against Western-supported Bosnian Serb president Biljana Plavsic.

The air was getting thick with trouble, and the temperature had risen to near boiling as we pulled into the Bosnian Serb army stronghold of Han Pijesak.

In the wake of the SAS snatch-and-grab and the escalation of tensions, SFOR had circled the wagons, pulling most of its assets back in and leaving everyone, including us, to wonder who would make the next move. Gone were the SFOR roadblocks which formally dotted the Bosnian Serb

no other details other than to say he received treatment for a 2- to 3-inch stab wound in his left shoulder at the U.S. Army's 405th Combat Support Hospital at Guardian Base.

The day before, "unknown assailants" bombed a United Nations motor pool in the Bosnian Serb city of Zvornik, and word coming out of the Bosnian-Serb Republic's



U.S. Army translators Elvira Agic (left) and Hasiba Dzafic (right), two very capable and charming assets.





(above) OP at Brcko bridge. A gung-ho "Dog of War" the U.N. prefers defanged. (right) Camp McGovern, home of the 2/2 Infantry. Manned by brave fighters — sent to implement social-worker policies developed by "George?"

Republic, and gone, too, was the heavy armor which characterized NATO's Implementation Force (IFOR). The NATO allies were now down to about half their IFOR level of 23,000 troops, and were forced to rely more on dangling the unseen threat of quick, but less specific retaliation, before the eyes of potential troublemakers.

### Showing The Flag

Jim reasoned the change in tactics had to do a lot with the U.S. Army's zero-defect thinking, which has spilled over into nearly every aspect of SFOR policy.

"The U.S. Army and SFOR don't want any shit," Jim said as we watched a Bosnian Serb BMP with dual antitank rockets lumber through the center of town.

"Sparse patrolling has two advantages. One because the bad guys never know when they [the U.S. Army] will come rolling around the corner. Kind of like cops on mountain bikes. Quiet and fast.

"Two," Jim went on, "it also lowers your exposure in case of hostile action. Move quietly, show a bit of the flag. It lets people know you're there, but not belligerently. Sort of like riding out to the reservation in the old Indian Territories, have coffee, smoke the pipe, show the flag."

We hovered around the sprawling Bosnian Serb military base, hoping for a glimpse of activity or a tell-tale sign exposing the presence of the War Crimes Tribunal number-two most wanted man, General Ratko Mladic.

"You know that in reality the chances of some line grunt coming upon either Mladic or Karadzic is practically zero," Jim said as we drove passed fields of Bosnian Muslim mass graves on our way to Zvornik to check



out the U.N. compound bombing. "Any real effort to grab serious war criminals will be carried out by SpecOps. Line grunts would only nab someone by accident."

The road to Zvorik was deserted, and although the strategic river port and border city with Yugoslavia stood in the American Sector, not a single gram of U.S. presence could be found.

Instead, we happened upon Lieutenant Joban Eddin, a Jordanian member of the United Nations Civil Police, standing along side the road near the bridge linking Bosnia with Serbia looking like the one Caucasian at a Black Panthers' meeting.

We asked Lt. Eddin about the bombing at the U.N. compound, and he replied that the Americans took over an hour to respond and left less than an hour later when groups of locals began surrounding their vehicles.

About an hour south of SFOR headquarters in Tuzla, we came upon a motorized squad of soldiers from the U.S. Army's Task Force 1/41 from Fort Riley, Kan., stopped alongside the road to Camp Demi, one of the U.S. Army's principle bases in Bosnia.

"No, it's been quiet around here," Captain David McVay, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, told us. "No trouble, except that stabbing. Otherwise we haven't felt any

heightened aggression towards U.S. troops."

How about any increased U.S. activity, we asked. Are there Special Forces at Camp Demi?

"No, things have been pretty dead at camp. The SpecOps guys that I've seen are with psychological operations," Specialist Four Isaac Martinez said, a LaPuente, Calif., native. "I don't think they're here for what you're thinking."

After a hearty lunch at Camp McGovern, home of the 2/2 Infantry, courtesy of the U.S. Army, we drove north to the nuclear landscape that marks the southern approach to Brcko. With the help of U.S. Army press information officer Lt. Michael Stella, a reservist from St. Paul, Minn., we had secured permission to join Sergeant Manrique and the men of 1st Platoon, Delta Company, as they patrolled the streets of Brcko.

### Why We Fight

"You must be the guys from *Soldier Of Fortune*," said Sgt. James Griffith, of Slidell, La., the squad medic. "Sergeant Manrique is on leave, but if you guys wait for us to finish this briefing we'll get you out on patrol."

While we waited for Sgt. Griffith to reappear, we went back to the *SOF* jeep and caught the last 15 minutes of country music from AFN radio at SFOR's Hungarian base in Taszar. It was a good day to be an American, and the sight of translators Elvira Agic and Hasiba Dzafic dressed in U.S.

Army-issue BDUs reminded both of us why we fight.

Both women were in Brcko to translate for a group of U.S. Army civil affairs officers hoping to maintain what little ties still remained between SFOR and the Bosnian Serb local authorities in the wake of last week's activities.

Visions of the attractive women were abruptly forgotten when Spc. Terrance Ray exited the squad's Conex and ordered everyone to lock and load.

"I'm going to head this squad," said Ray. "All right everyone, finish your smokes and let's move out."

Unlike any other city in Bosnia, Brcko is the only place where U.S. forces actively patrol the streets on foot. Like the British in Northern Ireland, U.S. forces literally walk into the lion's den every time they leave the secured environs of their basketball court-sized firebase abutting the bridge linking Croatia and Bosnia proper in the town's center.

Using sound tactics, the squad's six members, along with squad translator Sead "Lucky" Kujundzic, stagger themselves on both sides of the narrow streets as they walk deeper into a lightly populated housing area behind the Brcko city hall.





Suspicious eyes appear at partially closed windows, watching the troops carefully as they walk by. Anyone we pass on the street is a potential suicide bomber. Anyone. Small kids, pensioners and especially one man or men in groups are given the once-over by every single soldier in the squad. No chances are taken, and the squad members are openly verbal in their dislike for the Bosnian Serbs.

Squad members openly admit that their frustration level runs high in this no-man's land between full-scale war and contracted peace.

"It's not easy soldiering here," Spc. Ray expresses. "These people don't like us, we don't like them and unfortunately we've got rules that make what we're doing unclear in some cases."

The squad comes up onto a main thoroughfare and while rear guards crouch to offer fire support if needed, the squad's point man starts wading his way through traffic towards a crowded bus stop and the opposite side of the street.

"Watch yourselves," yells Ray.

Everyone's eyes open even wider and the internal radar gets a bit stronger as we pass about 200 men and women milling along the streets. If looks could kill, this squad would have taken 100% casualties this afternoon.

### "Excessively Aggressive"

We make our way down some more quiet streets, stopping once to rehydrate and make radio contact with base.

The United Nations Civil Police office for Brcko is less than 25 meters away, and a Norwegian Civ-Pol comments "Here comes the Dogs of War," lightly mocking the Americans for what the U.N. sees as their "excessively aggressive" manner with the locals.

"Fuck the U.N.," a soldier tells Jim Bartlett. "Those guys have a bad attitude towards us."

The squad nears a row of cafes catering to war profiteers, mafia-types and off-duty Bosnian Serb officials and comes under a muffled verbal assault which isn't helped by our picture taking.

Ray calls for the squad to head towards the city's main Bosnian Serb army barracks. There's no sign of activity except for a lone sentry.

"The Serbs are permitted to carry their weapons shouldered without magazine," Ray explains. "If we see them carrying their weapons otherwise, we could consider it a hostile act and deal with it accordingly."

We observed the base from a nearby park, before moving out for the city's center and the final two kilometers back to base.

No one looked the squad in the eyes as we walked by mothers pushing baby carriages and men shuffling between offices and home.

### The Biased Fax

As squad members entered the base a lone Bosnian Serb policeman came walking by in the opposite direction, getting captured in a photo taken by this correspondent.

Without identifying himself or asking that we "please" not make any more photos with him in it, the unidentified Bosnian Serb trotted over and with fingers pointing began screaming for the film to be handed over to him.

"No. Go fuck yourself," was my answer. The Dayton Peace Accord calls for freedom of the press throughout Bosnia and, considering that I was covering the U.S. Army and that I am a U.S. cit-

**Task Force 1/41 Bosnia. Ready, willing, able ... wasted. Do diplomats ever make the right decisions? Of course, they're not the ones who'll suffer for their screw ups.**

izen carrying SFOR identification, this incident should have ended there.

It didn't.

For the Bosnian Serbs that answer was all the reason they needed to begin their assault on 1st Platoon. Threats flew back and forth, and as the incident escalated I continued to photograph the ensuing argument.

At no time did anyone from the 1st Platoon ask me to give up my film.

Four days later, however, *Soldier Of Fortune* received a fax from Headquarters, Task Force 1-77 Armor, McGovern Base, Bosnia, informing us that although I "completed [the] patrol without incident," my not caving in to the less-than-civil demands of the Bosnian Serbs brought discredit upon SFOR and American soldiers.

With nothing more powerful than implied threats, the Bosnian Serbs had forced the U.S. Army to become their advocates and do their bidding, which was to prevent the media from observing, and photographing the activities of the Bosnian Serbs and the U.S. Army in Bosnia.

The Bosnian Serbs know quite clearly that they are no match for U.S. forces, but they also know that the U.S. Army won't stay forever in Bosnia, and when they're gone it will be business as usual.

*Chief Foreign Correspondent Mark H. Milstein has reported on armed conflicts from the former Yugoslavia, Chechnya, Lebanon and Iraq. He is based in Hungary.* ✕



# Prior Warning

**Could The Feds Have Prevented The OKC Bombing?**



Richard L. Sherrow

In one of the most bizarre aspects of her case, ATF snitch Howe reported Dennis Mahon had bragged that "... he made [a] 500-pound ammonium nitrate bomb in Michigan about five years ago, put it under a truck and blew it up." Sound familiar? This transaxle part (above) from the Ryder truck blown up with ammonium nitrate in the OKC bombing was found blocks away from the Murrah building by SOF reporter and former EOD man Richard L. Sherrow.



*A retired Marine lieutenant colonel with infantry and intelligence specialties, Roger G. Charles has been a freelance journalist and investigator since 1990. He broke the stories on the coverup of the U.S.S. Vincennes' shootdown of an Iranian airliner, and of former Chief of Naval Operations Boorda wearing combat distinguishing devices not in fact awarded. He worked as assistant producer of ABC's 20-20, and as a defense investigator for attorney Stephen Jones on the OKC bombing trial in Denver. He is presently an investigator for Oklahoma State Representative Charles Key's committee formed to support the independent grand jury now probing the OKC bombing.*

**A** petite, 5-foot, 1-inch blonde has humiliated the FBI in a case that threatens far more potential down-side consequences than the Bureau suffered after the Richard Jewell debacle.

Information released at the trial (28 July - 1 August 1997) of former ATF confidential informant Carol Howe in a Tulsa, Okla., federal courtroom places the FBI alone at the center of inquiries into the two pivotal, unresolved issues of the 19 April 1995 Oklahoma City bombing:

— Did federal law enforcement have prior knowledge/prior warning of the bombing and fail to prevent the attack?

— Did a wider conspiracy than just the convicted Timothy J. McVeigh and the indicted Terry L. Nichols plan, support and conduct the terrorist attack? (Who are the "others unknown" referred to in the federal grand jury indictment, and why are they still unidentified more than two years after the attack?)

## by Roger G. Charles

The new evidence, combined with previous information, is approaching critical mass in proving that federal law enforcement had received warning of the threat to the Murrah Building, warning sufficient that any reasonable and prudent official should have taken steps to alert those who worked in, visited or had children in the day-care center of the ill-fated building.

With the exception of the ATF Special Agents (SA), no such alert was passed on to those at risk. Until Howe's trial, questions about prior warning focused mostly on the ATF while the FBI was central only to issues involving the wider conspiracy.

### Not Guilty On All Counts

The FBI's involuntary appearance at center stage on both unanswered questions results from a criminal trial whose verdict was announced 1 August of this year in the federal courtroom of the Northern District of Oklahoma. At 10:25 p.m., the clerk began reading the unanimous verdict of 12 citizens: Carol Elizabeth Howe is not guilty of any of the three counts in her federal indictment.

Howe and her fiancé, James Dodson Vieffhaus, Jr., had been charged with: (1) conspiracy to make a telephone bomb threat and to possess a non-registered destructive device (a pipe bomb); (2) making a telephone bomb threat; and (3) possessing a non-registered destructive device. (The trials had been severed and Vieffhaus, relying on a public defender, had been found guilty of the three identical charges the preceding Friday in the same courtroom.)

Charges included possessing three components of a pipe bomb that Howe had collected from a target of her undercover work, Dennis Mahon. She had obtained these items under the guidance of her ATF handler, Special Agent Angela Finley: a can of Pyrodex gunpowder, a small section of 2-and 1/2-inch pipe (with end caps), and "hobby fuse."

The ATF even Xeroxed the can of gunpowder, evidently obli-

ous to the danger posed by sparking static electrical charges around copy machines. Showing more of the sloppiness which permeated nearly everything SA Finley and her ATF office seemed to do, no one recorded the items in the evidence property files as required by ATF directives. Fortunately for Howe, Finley referred to the fuse and gunpowder in her reports.

The government claimed Finley had ordered Howe to take back all three items and return them to Mahon since, as Finley testified, it was not a crime to possess the items. (Howe disputed that Finley told her to return the items to Mahon.)

The jury no doubt saw the flagrant contradiction that escaped the U.S. Attorney who brought the charges: It was not a crime for Mahon, the subject of a major ATF criminal investigation, to possess the identical items that Howe, a paid ATF operative, was later indicted for possessing!

### Background

The 26-year old, debutante daughter of a very successful, upper-middle class family, Howe's personal history was unexceptional until February 1994 when Howe was the victim of a life-altering incident — she was "pushed off a building" in a Tulsa park "by three black men."

Courtesy J. D. Cash



Center of the storm over who in the federal government knew what and when about impending terrorist actions against the government is former BATF contract informant Carol Howe. Dropped as a government snitch, Howe was charged by the feds with possession of unregistered destructive device (which she had gotten from investigative target on instructions from her BATF handler). Howe, shown here draped in Nazi flag with Tec-9 pistol at Elohim City, was acquitted on all counts — but testimony at trial raised serious questions regarding government handling of events leading to OKC bombing, and the investigation afterward.

Understandably traumatized by this assault, she was vulnerable to the appeal of charlatans whom she had previously ignored. She contacted Dennis Mahon, the local spokesman for the White Aryan Resistance (W.A.R.), by calling his "racist hot line."

Shortly after this initial contact Howe connected with the neo-Nazi compound that now figures so prominently in her life and in the OKBOMB investigation — Elohim City. She's now of great interest to journalists and investigators trying to penetrate governmental stonewalling because of the "strategic" warning she had provided the ATF, months before the bombing. Howe also has potentially explosive first-hand knowledge about the wider conspiracy, which common sense dictates must have been involved, and which



impressive, mounting evidence shows *was* involved.

A 28 January 1996 article by J.D. Cash in the *Curtain County Gazette*, of Idabel, Oklahoma, made the first mention of an ATF confidential informant (CI). Cash did not identify Howe by name until an 11 February article that provided much more detail of Howe's ATF work.

The recent trial confirmed previous information and added significant new details to Howe's role as an ATF CI. Her defense attorney, Clark Brewster, entered as trial exhibits important documents from Howe's official CI file which attested to the credibility and detail of the information Howe had provided her case officer.

These records also expose the FBI's not-surprising victory in the turf fight over the investigation of a nest of radical, anti-government elements at Elohim City. Much of Howe's investigation centered on this several-hundred-acre compound near Muldrow in east-central Oklahoma. Headed by Robert Millar, a Canadian immigrant who claims apocalyptic visions, Elohim City served as both a permanent base to Millar and his "flock," and as a way station to other anti-government radicals/criminals in their cross-country treks.

### Chronology

On 25 August 1994, Carol Howe accepted a recruiting pitch from Finley to begin undercover service as a paid CI, under Finley's direct supervision. Howe passed a thorough background check and polygraph before going operational. Her two-page CI contract stated that Howe agreed to "assist in an official investigation" by performing "undercover contacts, undercover telephone (sic), purchase of firearms and/or explosives."

The chain of command for the investigation was typically bureaucratic (events were to prove it was as ineffective as it was complex):



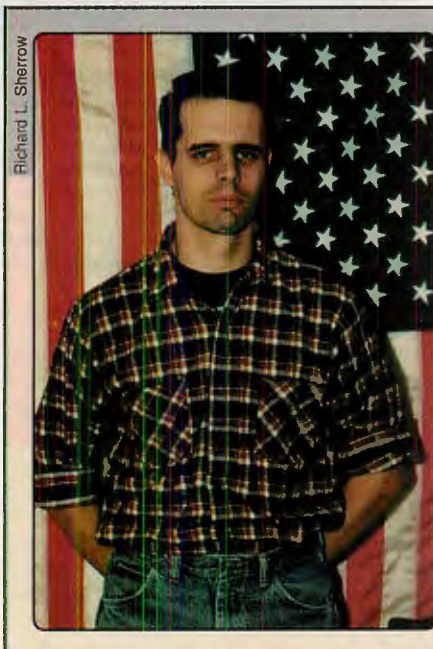
A 28 January 1996 article by J.D. Cash in the *Curtain County Gazette*, of Idabel, Oklahoma, made the first mention of an ATF confidential informant (CI). Cash did not identify Howe by name until an 11 February article that provided much more detail of Howe's ATF work. Cash, left, poses here with Dennis W. Mahon, prominent in racist and neo-Nazi circles in eastern Oklahoma — and target of Howe's undercover work for BATF. Court testimony indicated Mahon told Howe he had blown up a truck with ammonium nitrate; as succinctly noted by former ATF official Bob Sanders, the number of people in the United States that have blown up a 500-pound ammonium nitrate bomb (or, to be more precise, who have even *claimed* to have done so) is very small — yet Mahon was never interviewed regarding the OKC bombing.

- CI Carol Howe, to
- SA Angela Finley, Tulsa ATF Office, to
- Resident Agent in Charge (RAC), Tulsa, David E. Roberts, to
- Special Agent in Charge (SAC), Dallas Field Division, Lester D. Martz, to
- ATF headquarters, Washington.

Finley's 30 August report noted that the now-formal investigation was "SENSITIVE." This characterization meant copies of the reports automatically went to ATF

headquarters in Washington, as well as being routinely provided to Martz at the Dallas Field Office. (ATF headquarters monitors all "SENSITIVE" investigations and briefs senior officials on their status.)

The ATF titled the investigation "White Aryan Resistance, W.A.R." and assigned it to the project category "TERRORIST/EXTREMIST." Finley described W.A.R. in this first report (based on information provided by Howe) as "a white supremacist organization that is ... radical, paramilitary,



## Andy The German

Andreas Carl Strassmeir — a German national with an expired visa, one of the most interesting characters in the rogue's gallery surrounding the OKC bombing — for some as-yet-unexplained reason, was allowed to stay in the United States and openly promote his plans. According to Howe's report following her 14-19 November 1994, visit to Elohim City, Strassmeir spoke forcefully of his desire "to forcibly act to destroy the United States' Government with direct actions and operations such as assassinations, bombings, and mass shootings." Strassmeir claimed "the biggest enemy to be the United States Government (ZOG) [Zionist Occupied Government]."

In a telephone interview with an ABC 20/20 news magazine producer on 29 January 1997, Howe said Strassmeir had forcibly exclaimed that it was time to quit talking and time to start blowing things up. Howe's BATF handler, Angela Finley (now using the last name Graham), at an 24 April 1997 pre-trial hearing, admitted to defense attorney Clark Brewster that Carol Howe had told Finley about Strassmeir's threats to blow up "Federal buildings ... before the Oklahoma City bombing."

Tracked down by *SOF*, Strassmeir gave reporter Richard L. Sherrow his only press interview — before he slipped out of the country. For months after the OKC bombing, Strassmeir stayed at Elohim City, but was never arrested.





Neo-nazi [sic], anti-government and violent." W.A.R. has national and international affiliates to include the KKK and a racist following in Germany.

### W.A.R.-Lords

This report identified Dennis Mahon as the Tulsa area leader of W.A.R. and relayed from Howe (referred to in ATF reports by the abbreviated CI numbers, CI-183, or 183) that "Mahon has made numerous statements regarding the conversion of firearms into fully automatic weapons, the manufacture and use of silencers and the manufacture and use of explosive devices. Mahon has stated both the knowledge and ability to manufacture a range of explosive devices. Mahon intends to manufacture and use any or all of the above when he deems necessary. Mahon and his organization are preparing for a race war and war with the government in the near future and it is believed that they are rapidly stockpiling weapons."

This is proof, from the ATF's own files, that nine months before the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building, a radical, violence-prone, armed group, based in the state of Oklahoma, with ties to neo-Nazis in Germany, and more than 200 hundred members, was rapidly stockpiling weapons and preparing for war with our government. The most visible spokesman for this group had stated his intention, and boasted of the capability, to manufacture and employ "a range of explosive devices" (also known as bombs).

Oddly, SA Finley in a 24 April 1997 pre-trial hearing claimed, "that is the general militia rhetoric. Everyone out there is saying the same thing." First, the Elohim city crowd is not militia — they are about as far from militia as the militia is from Sarah Brady's Handgun Control, Inc. More importantly, "everyone" isn't saying they want to blow up federal buildings.

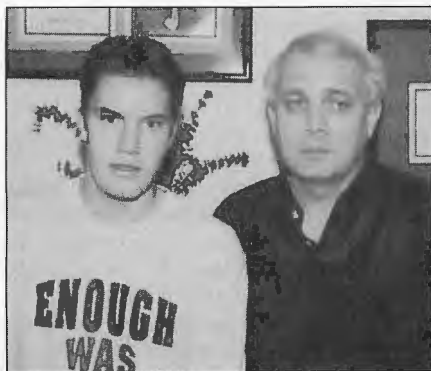
And everyone damn sure isn't saying they want to blow up federal buildings that do, in fact, get blown up! Finley ended her report by stating, "This will be an extensive investigation in order to identify the individuals involved in the manufacture, transfer and possession of unregistered T [Title]-II firearms and explosive devices."

Now, three years later, the irony of this statement is almost overpowering — a rookie special agent took on one of the most demanding cases in ATF history, and proved not up to the challenge.

But Bob Sanders, a retired Special Agent and former Assistant Director of the BATF for Law Enforcement, and an expert witness for Howe's defense who reviewed her CI file, asked in an interview after the trial, "What were her supervisors and managers doing?" The answer's all too clear — not enough.

### Dennis Mahon: Why Not Interviewed?

Also in the fall of 1994, Howe reported to Finley that Mahon had on two occasions



Richard L. Sherrow

John Doe II, early sought in the OKC bombing, has never been publicly identified nor arrested. Oklahoma Citian Glenn Wilburn, who lost two grandchildren in the blast and whose independent search for facts appeared to have irritated the feds, was told by the FBI that his son Bart (left) might be John Doe II. Their house was routinely under surveillance. At the time of the bombing, Bart was 14.

detonated home-made grenades (non-registered, i.e., illegal destructive devices) in her presence. She had even retrieved metal fragments from both incidents and turned the pieces over to Finley.

And in one of the most bizarre aspects of this entire case, Howe reported Mahon bragged that "... he made [a] 500-pound ammonium nitrate bomb in Michigan about five years ago, put it under truck and blew it up."

Succinctly noted Sanders in an interview, the number of people in the United States that have blown up a 500-pound ammonium nitrate bomb (or, to be more precise, who have even claimed to have done so) is very small.

After the April 1995 bombing in Oklahoma City, one would have expected that at the very least, a known anti-govern-

ment radical like Mahon would have been at the top of the suspect list. Mahon's official files documented his extensive involvement with illegal destructive devices, his incendiary rhetoric promoting violence, his professions to be a bomb expert, and his proximity to Oklahoma City.

Mahon was an obvious choice to have been one of the first suspects invited to chat with the OKBOMB Task Force, but, to date, federal law enforcement has not interviewed Mahon about his possible involvement in the attack.

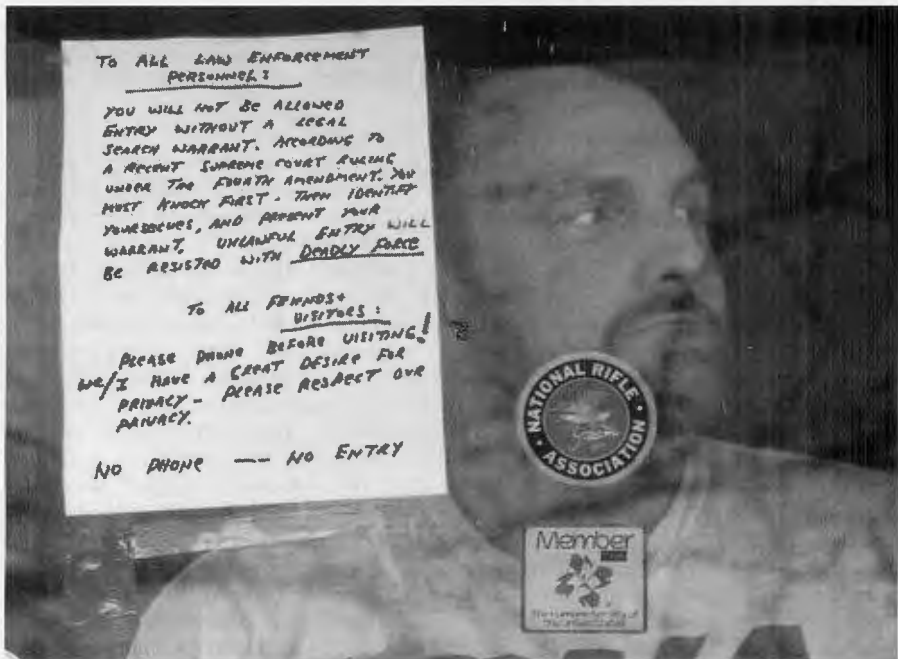
### Andreas Carl Strassmeir, aka "Andy the German"

Less than a week after she went operational, Howe visited Elohim City and met "Andy LNU [last name unknown], a German male, who is head of security for Elohim City." Andy would be identified in mid-December as Andreas Carl Strassmeir, an illegal immigrant whose visa had expired on 2 August 1991.

Strassmeir is one of the most interesting characters in the entire rogue's gallery of the OKC bombing and, for some as-yet-unexplained reason, he was allowed to stay in the United States and openly promote his plans.

According to Howe's report following her 14-19 November 1994 visit to Elohim City, he spoke forcefully of his desire "to forcibly act to destroy the United States' Government with direct actions and operations such as assassinations, bombings, and mass shootings." Strassmeir claimed "the biggest enemy to be the United States Government (ZOG) [Zionist Occupied Government]."

In a telephone interview with an ABC 20/20 news magazine producer on 29 January 1997, partially monitored by this writer, Howe stated that Strassmeir had



AP Photo/J. Paul Carter

Avowed racist Dennis Mahon figured prominently in Howe's investigation as one who promoted war with the "Zionist Occupation Government" and bragged of building fertilizer bombs. Why was he not questioned?



during this same general period forcibly exclaimed that it was time to quit talking and time to start blowing things up. Angela Finley (now using the last name Graham), at an 24 April 1997 pre-trial hearing, admitted to defense attorney Clark Brewster that Carol Howe had told Finley about Strassmeir's threats to blow up "Federal buildings ... before the Oklahoma City bombing."

It's interesting to note that when the FBI queried "various federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to determine if ANDREAS CARL STRASSMEIR was ever a cooperating witness or confidential source," only the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) reported that it held any records on him.

### Oh, That Strassmeir ...

The CIA's Office of General Counsel reported an attorney from that office "has been in direct contact with Assistant United States Attorney Beth Wilkinson at the OKBOMB Task Force in Denver ..." The CIA attorney "advised she has provided the results to AUSA Wilkinson concerning her agency's records check ..." (The CIA attorney referred the author's query to the CIA press office, which declined to comment about Strassmeir.) The reason for refusing comment is that the pending trial of Terry Nichols precludes any response. Funny, the Department of Justice has consistently denied that Strassmeir has any relevance whatsoever to the OKBOMB investigation or cases connected to it. And, for what it's worth, the FBI and ATF have separately and consistently denied that Strassmeir was a CI for either agency.

CI-183 also reported that "Andy" had been in possession of various weapons and had fired them during target-practice sessions with Howe and others. On 14 September, Howe reported that in her visit to Elohim City from 12-14 September, "while shooting, he [Strassmeir] made 183 crawl on the ground under barbed wire while he fired his .45 at 183's feet."

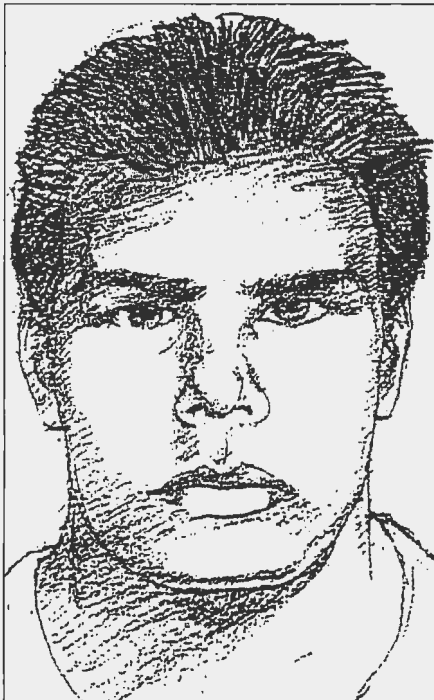
By mid-December 1994, Howe's information on Strassmeir had accumulated to the point where the ATF had decided to move against this illegal alien who spoke of acting forcibly against what he believed to be "the biggest enemy ... the United States Government (ZOG)." And it was about time: It's bad enough that we have home-grown crazies promoting such garbage. One cannot help but wonder why federal law enforcement allowed an illegal alien — who openly carried a variety of weapons — an additional illegal act, to provoke a den of domestic rattlesnakes that were already abuzz.

The first documentation of ATF interest in Strassmeir as a target of possible criminal interest was on an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) computer printout (dated 13 December 1994) of Strassmeir data with the handwritten annotation: "Need certification of non-existence of legal permanent residence. Sensitive

Investigation by ATF — SA Angela Finley."

An undated, but most-likely, December 1994 INS memorandum provided more information on the ATF's new-found interest in Strassmeir and noted that the ATF planned to arrest him:

*SA Angela Finley, ATF, from Tulsa called regarding the attached individual. They have an on-going case on him that she described as "sensitive" for an unknown reason. He's buying guns but that's all she said. I found the non-immigrant record on him but no LP [lawful permanent residence] status. She said he lives out in the boonies in Eastern Oklahoma. They plan to charge him with 922(g) [illegal alien in possession of a weapon] but needed evidence that he is here*



**Early in the investigation, before fate, expired plates and an alert Oklahoma state trooper handed the Feds Timothy McVeigh, this wanted poster of John Doe II was being circulated.**

*illegally. I have ordered a certificate of non-existence of lawful permanent residence from HQ which will take 6-8 weeks. I had it sent to Dallas and I'll forward it to you when I get it. Angela also wanted to know if an INS agent could go with them when they arrest him. I told her to contact you.*

Special Agent Finley confirmed in a report dated 1 January 1995, the more complete identification of the previously mysterious "Andy LNU": "Andy" who is said to be the head of security at Elohim City. He is actually Andreas Karl (sic) Strassmeir, a West German, DOB: May 17, 1959 ... Strassmeir had questionable weapons connections.

She went on to relay Howe's information that: *During the Sabbath meeting, Millar gave a sermon soliciting violence against the United States Government. He brought forth his soldiers and instructed them to take whatever actions necessary against the*

*United States Government ... He [Millar] explicitly told 183 that they were preparing to fight a war against the government ...*

### The Non-Arrest Of Andreas Strassmeir

By early January 1995, Howe's information resulted in INS referring explicitly for the first time to Strassmeir as being of interest in a criminal investigation and the subject of a pending arrest:

*Investigation pending — no arrest or warrant as of yet — Northeastern Oklahoma — request [INS] participation. Raid — next month.*

Events were accelerating and on 10 January 1995, a junior agent in the Oklahoma City INS office informed her supervisors: *Per your note, I talked to Angela Finley, ATF. It may be awhile before the subject is contacted or arrested, but we will probably be called to assist.* INS clearly expected ATF to raid Elohim City to arrest Strassmeir once certification was received from INS headquarters that Strassmeir had no legal basis for being in this country. And it's clear from reading the INS records that this raid and arrest would occur sometime after mid February 1995.

On 17 February 1995, INS headquarters telefaxed to the Oklahoma City field office a notarized "certification" which stated that, regarding Strassmeir, "after diligent search ... there is no evidence of any lawful admission to the United States as an immigrant ..." In February (probably after the 16th), Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper Ken Stafford issued a "Be On the Look Out for" (BOLO) regarding Strassmeir: *BOLO for Security Chief at Elohim City Compound ... — carries a .45 auto pistol at all times...*

*— He is an illegal alien, ATF wants to be notified if he is stopped and has the gun on him. They will file the charges ... Contact: Agent Angela Finley ATF ...*

The most explosive revelation of the trial came not in courtroom testimony, but was released in Finley's monthly report, dated 28 February 1995. It explained the heretofore mysterious failure of the ATF to carry through on its stated intentions to raid Elohim City and arrest the illegal alien, Strassmeir, for possession of firearms:

*On 22 February 1995, this agent met with OHP Trooper Ken Stafford to exchange certain information regarding this investigation. Trooper Stafford indicated that the FBI also had an ongoing investigation regarding Elohim City.*

Finley was no doubt shocked: The ATF's imminent raid of Elohim City to arrest "Andy the German" would interfere with an on-going FBI undercover investigation at Millar's neo-Nazi compound.

### Catastrophic Commingling

On the same day, Finley's boss, Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) David E. Roberts, in a highly unusual exception to bureaucratic protocol, met with the U.S. Attorney for

**Continued on page 72**



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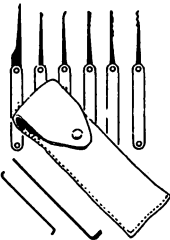
Lockaid \$69.95



## PXP 8

- Shirt Pocket Size.
- Top Grain Cowhide Leather.
- Has 8 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor.
- All Picks with Metal Handles.
- Copy of Lockpicking Simplified.

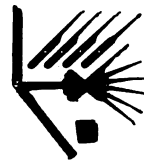
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100% American Made!  
As convenient to carry and use as a pocket knife!  
Only 4 inches long, half inch square, weighs under five ounces, works fast and opens pin and water tumbler locks quickly, with very little effort. Six tempered spring steel picks, tension wrench.

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## PIX MODEL 13

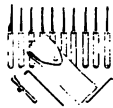
This deluxe yet compact kit features 11 of the most commonly used tools. Comes in a slim cowhide leather case for discreet undercover operatives. As a special bonus, a 5-piece set of warded picks is included. A 16-piece set total. Also included, a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." Receive all this at a low price of Pix 13 \$42.95



## PXP 10

- Shirt Pocket Size.
- Top Grain Cowhide Leather.
- Has 13 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor.
- All Picks with Metal Handles.
- Copy of Lockpicking Simplified.

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Made of the finest blue tempered spring steel, this 5-piece padlock pick-set is a must in every locksmiths' tool box. This set will pick open most every warded padlock made today. \$9.95



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## ESP-13

This handy new pick set is the most popular set among professional locksmiths today. This kit consists of 12 different tools housed in a handsome black leather case designed for a shirt pocket. Included in the price, you receive a 5-piece warded key set and a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." 17-piece set total.

ESP-13 \$45.95



## SESAMEE DECODER

This tool was designed to decode the exact combination of a sesamee padlock without damaging the lock. Detailed instruction included.



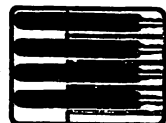
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The most effective tubular pick on the market, unlike the larger picks with long handles or screwdriver handles. The longer the tool, the more pressure needed which causes easy breakage. The advantage of the Mini Pick is it is so short, you only use your thumb and index finger. With a little practice this tool will open a tubular lock in less than a minute. A. Your Choice: (1) Center (2) Offset left (3) Offset right; B. "Segal" 8 pin tubular; C. 5-pin Tubular; D. 6-pin Tubular; E. 8-Pin Ace.



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## DOUBLE SIDED DISK TUMBLER PICKS

Set of 4 picks designed to be used on the most popular double-sided disc tumbler, showcase, cam and padlocks.

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## Electric Picks



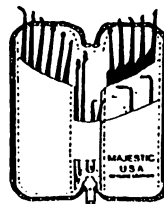
The best single tool for most pin tumbler locks • Opens many locks in seconds  
High quality aluminum construction • Used by locksmiths worldwide

E100C (3 volt) ..... \$ 99.95

## SCHLAGE WAFER

The most fantastic tool you will ever use. This set consists of two base keys and pick. Complete instructions included.

\$29.95



## MD16

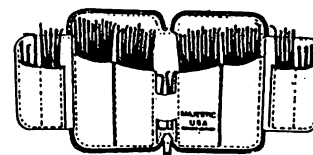
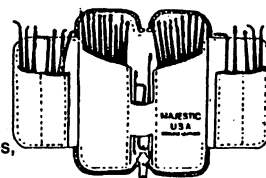
Shirt Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 16 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor.

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Hip Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 32 picks, Tension Wrenches, Broken Key Extractor.

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Continued from page 43

Division, is worried: A land-nav error could prevent the patrol from completing its recon mission on time — and earn him a failing grade. As he and his radioman (who packs an old PRC-77 unit) scrutinize the squiggle-filled grid square on their multicolored topo maps, a cool, brisk wind arrives.

The studs are wearing sweat- and rain-soaked BDUs under rain jackets and rucksacks as they lie on the ground or kneel behind trees. A few minutes pass. Some of the men — underfed, fatigued — begin shivering. Misty clouds approach. An RI checks his wristwatch with growing annoyance. “Are we ready to move, PL?” he demands, gesturing with his hand-carved hickory staff.

The student looks up from his map. Cammie face paint does not conceal a momentary look of indecisiveness. “Come on, get your head out of your ass!” the RI scolds. “What are we doing, PL?”

The PL stuffs his map in a cargo pocket, calls for a head count, then leads the patrol off the ridge line. They are on the correct azimuth — more or less.

That night, Alpha-1’s movement to a new patrol base is supposed to be only 2 kilometers — on the map, that is. But the PL and his #2

**RI’S BASIC LOAD**

Ranger instructors at Camp Merrill accompany, instruct, and oversee mountain-phase students year-round in the rugged Chattahoochee forest. RIs’ personal packing lists include such standard items as military rucksack, load-bearing suspenders and belt, 1-2 gallons of canteens, field-duty uniform with soft cap, and combat boots suited for rocky/ overgrown/muddy terrain. The following is derived from a packing list compiled by some of the RIs in the 5th RTBn. It can serve as a basic guide for less-experienced civilian outdoorsmen preparing for hilly to low-mountainous North American terrain. (Extra clothing typically is carried in waterproof bags; smaller items, such as rolled socks, fit neatly in zip-locked bags.)



- Poncho, lightweight nylon, cammie [as rain garment, or as roof of hooch]
- Poncho liner [lightweight nylon blanket for use with Army poncho], cammie
- Sleeping mat, self-inflating
- Bungee cords x 4 [for lashing gear to outside of ruck, or stringing a poncho hooch], subdued color
- Cord, “550” parachute type, 20 feet [variety of uses]

- Jacket, rain, lightweight, cammie
- Socks x 3 pair [in cold or wet weather, cotton is much less effective than wool]
- Communications device: battery-powered portable field radio
- First-aid kit
- Compass with lanyard [best with luminous sighting dots]
- Map, most recent topographic of area
- GPS device, fresh batteries [for use in difficult, unfamiliar terrain]
- Tablets, water-purification [note: pills go bad with age]
- Food, high-energy, field-portable [if MREs, 2 per day usually suffice]
- Knife, at least 6” blade, full tang, durable edge; with scabbard & sharpener [5th RTBn field cadre are testing Ka-Bar’s “Next Generation” and Cold Steel’s “Bush Ranger” and “SRK” knives]
- Stick, hiking, hardwood, 5-6 feet tall, with band of glow tape [used for negotiating terrain, moving a poisonous snake aside, or judging depth and footing in stream before crossing; best if preserved with boiled linseed oil]
- Strobe light, small, with fresh batteries [for marking LZ or emergency site at night]
- Flashlight or head-mounted lamp, fresh batteries
- Matches (waterproofed) or lighter — M.K.

compass man did not readily notice that the downward slope off a hill pushed the formation a few degrees off azimuth. In the unforgiving Chattahoochee, the error translates into an extra hour or more of movement, mostly downhill in a single and heavily laden file.

Combat boots slip on slick rocks. Tree roots reach out from the darkness to catch ankles. The PL, as bone-tired as anybody else, is sweating it. Around him, tempers are getting short; troops’ self-discipline is stretched. At one point the downhill trail is so treacherous the RIs briefly go “admin”

and switch on Mag-Lite flashlights to guide the column. Common sense: This is only training, and they don’t want to have to carry out a stud suffering broken bones.

The long night passes. In the light of morning, members of the hard-luck platoon shake the cobwebs from their heads and dine on cold MREs and canteen water. Only 29 days to go.

SOF Assistant Editor Marty Kufus, a former Russian-speaking paratrooper, completed Ranger school in 1984. ✕



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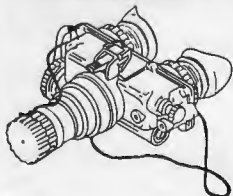
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Continued from page 55

have also been defections to the West.

Much valuable data on Iranian nuclear developments has been provided by Iranian General Sardar Shafagh, a member of that country's Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps and a key player in Iran's uranium enrichment program. He disappeared in Moscow in mid-1995 while negotiating nuclear contracts with the Russian organization Minatom. According to Bani Sadr, he had with him important documents. General Shafagh is now in the United States.

On the technical front, the most disturbing development as far as the rest of the world is concerned has been the recruitment of former Soviet nuclear scientists by Iran. Some out-of-work South African technicians who were made redundant by the scrapping of their own nuclear program are also said by contacts among former members of the security forces to have been recruited. The Russian press has reported that the going rate for a nuclear scientist is about \$5,000, more if that individual has special skills.

Concurrently, Libya targeted South African CW specialists shortly after Nelson Mandela's ANC took over. Pretoria halted that development after being made aware.

**Wanted: Technology, Or Technologists**

The possibility of renegade South African scientists working for a formerly hostile power has been discounted by the ANC government, even though there were about 200 of them working at Pelindaba and elsewhere when the programs were in full swing. Remember, however, that South African special forces veterans who spent two decades battling the Luanda Marxist government have, for the past five or six years, been fighting in Angola as mercenaries. They say they have good reason and it has nothing to do with ideology. Like former Soviet scientists, almost all maintain they have no other way of supporting their families.

There are other factors: The rate of unemployment among both white and black in South Africa is crippling. Also, conditions are not helped by the fact that standards in public institutions such as schools, universities, hospitals, the police force and government have dropped dramatically since President Nelson Mandela came to power. That, coupled with a breakdown in law and order (with an average of 71 murders a day in 1996), South African cities are now cited by the *Economist* (31 May 1997) as the most violent in the world. Thus, any kind of opportunity abroad is regarded as a godsend.

Most reports emerging from Iran today place that country's nuclear program under the authority of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI). There are

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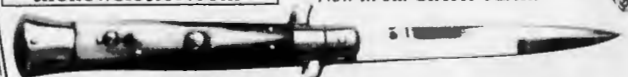
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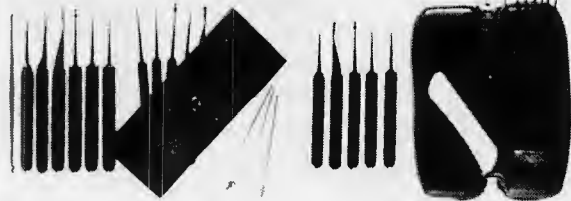
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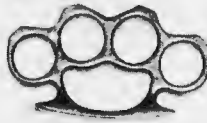
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other government bodies active as well.

According to the American physicist David Albright, President of the Institute of Science and International Security in Washington, some accuse the defense ministry of illegal foreign procurement activities and possible nuclear-weapon work at military sites. (*Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium 1996* by David Albright, Frans Berkhout and William Walker, Stockholm International Peace Institute, 1997.) Still other reports indicate that important work is being done by the Revolutionary Guards, which was highlighted by the defection of Shafagh, who was a Pasdaran general.

The focus of Iranian nuclear interests today appears to be centered on the trilogy of uranium enrichment (gas centrifuge), a laser isotope system which is somewhere between AVLIS (atomic vapor laser isotope separation) and MLIS (molecular laser) technology, as well as a weapons-orientated means of delivery. As Iraq's Saddam Hussein quickly discovered, all three are fraught with complex disciplines not really suited to Third World budgets or doctrines. Certainly, they are a frightful drain on a weak economy.

### Simple Idea, Complicated Implementation

There is good reason. While the basic idea behind the centrifuge is elementary, creating a practical device to separate the lighter fissile Uranium 235 isotope from the heavier 238, is formidable. The two layers of gas stay very close together and to separate them at all, the spinning cylinder or rotor must turn at such high speeds that centrifugal forces would cause paint to fly off.

The slightest instability — where the rotor spins 1,300 times a second — will cause bearings to fail and rotors to crash in an instant. Today's advanced hi-tech centrifuges are propelled at eight times the speed of sound. (*New Scientist*, London, 24 October 1992.) This becomes even more difficult where thousands of centrifuges are linked together to form what the technicians refer to as a cascade, which is essential to produce useful amounts of HEU. Pakistan has been trying for years to master these intricacies, but, as far as known, has managed to produce only a few thousand of its own hybrid centrifuges.

*Al J. Venter, SOF's long-time contributing editor for Africa, has covered events in the Mid-East and Africa for nearly two decades.*

*(Next month the author will examine parallel efforts by these Third World nuclear wannabees to procure or upgrade their stables of nuclear-capable delivery systems ... and the rogues within the industrialized nations willing to help with nuclear programs, or delivery systems, or both.)* ✕

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## Africa's Gang-Bangers

Continued from page 47

It's hard to talk tactics when it's all mixed up with the magic and folk myths that the majority of the fighters believe in.

### Welcoming Committee

We approached the remnant of what had once been a town called Tuzon. Suddenly, the ECOMOG patrol was surrounded by a gang of boys, heavily armed.

They carried Kalashnikov rifles, M16s, rocket-propelled grenades, and other weapons I couldn't see for the crowding. The "commander" was about 17 or 18; his fighters ranged in age from 10 to late teens. Somehow "fighters" seems too dignified a term for these young thugs. They wore the same stoned street-gang expression of *attitude* as inner-city gang-bangers in America: too young to have guns — but armed and deadly nonetheless.

They were LPC gunmen and this was a sort of checkpoint, although I suspected it was set up especially for us since nobody else (barring other fighters) travels this road. These boys belonged to "General Ruth Atilla," also known as Ruth Milton.

At 40-plus, General Ruth was a little too well-fed for a place where malnutrition runs rampant. She wore shorts and a tank top and had the air of trailer trash gone awry as she sat on her white-plastic lawn chair on the verandah of a house without electricity but with plenty of armed teenagers for security. Ruth and her boys played by the rules, however, and "permitted" ECOMOG into their territory.

Not much farther, the sight of NIBATT-24's first Zwedru checkpoint was a welcome one. Our patrol leader radioed news of our arrival and the successful completion of our uneventful mission. Ewa's men would make the return trip tomorrow.

### End Of Disarmament

Across the country ECOMOG soldiers were continuing to deploy farther into faction-controlled territory, rounding up the boys and trucking them in to be demobilized by U.N. teams. But they were spreading themselves thinly, and the increase in operations stretched their logistical resources almost to the breaking point. In January, Major Gen. Malu appealed for more troops and logistical support from the international community. The response to that appeal was slow in coming.

When reports came in that more than 500 heavily armed NPFL fighters were ready to peacefully surrender their guns at Taylor's Gbarga stronghold, there were questions as to whether or not this was a serious gesture or a trap. Although the corridor was "open," the ECOMOG troops that would have to go in to do the disarming would be completely outnumbered if anything went wrong.

We arrived before 0700. The small town already was crowded with hardened fight-

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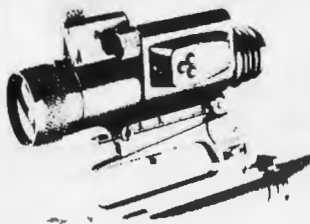


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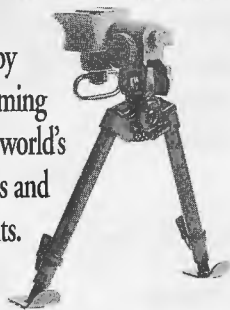
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ers. Loaded weapons of every make and model were being waved about carelessly as the guys, some of whom were quite drunk, celebrated the "end of the war." Liberia boasts one of the oddest assortment of weapons anywhere, and some of the most decrepit-looking guns still are quite capable of killing.

Despite the potential for utter chaos as the drunken fighters pushed and shoved each other, the ECOMOG team quickly got the situation under control. And it was a good thing. For the next three days, more fighters kept coming to voluntarily hand in their weapons as the expiration of the "amnesty" deadline threatened. (In another Liberian irony, with the eventual passing of the deadline the additional troops and supplies requested by Malu finally started arriving. They were quickly put to good use as ECOMOG began conducting arms-recovery operations in the bush and in Monrovia.)

Later, a weapons search in the Monrovia residences of the factional leaders turned up 660 bombs, 143 rifles, and an anti-aircraft gun in the house of ULIMO-K leader Alhaji Kromah. He was "arrested" and, suddenly, the usually lax Monrovia checkpoints began to take security seriously again — until Kromah "apologized" and was released.

*Freelance writer JoMarie Fecci's previous contribution to SOF was "Colombia's Crack Troops," May '97. ✕*

**GIs In The Gulag**

*Continued from page 51*

definitely been run by the KGB. This was because the GRU had bungled the POW transfer during the Korean War. A "highly compartmentalized" team of KGB First Chief Directorate intelligence specialists had been assigned to the Soviet embassies in both Hanoi and Vientiane, Laos. Their mission was to identify and segregate a *select* group of American POWs known to possess information on critical military technologies.

"This was not a dragnet," "Jones" emphasized. "The criteria were strict: Only those airmen with special knowledge who had been captured alone, or at least not seen alive in the central prison system, were selected."

This group of unfortunate candidates was further winnowed down, "Jones" said, at several isolated Soviet-controlled military bases in Indochina, which might possibly have included KGB electronic intelligence centers on the remote northern Vietnam-Lao border. These ELINT bases provided invaluable early warning on American airstrikes launched from carriers on Yankee Station in the Tonkin Gulf or from airbases in Thailand. Therefore, the North Vietnamese could hardly quibble with the Soviets abducting a few Americans for preliminary interrogation at these secret



centers. Once it was determined that an airman had the training and knowledge on the KGB shopping list, the Soviets transported him by their own military aircraft to the Soviet Union. After they'd been exploited, they were executed.

"Pavlovich" was right about that," I told "Jones."

"He was right about everything he told you," "Jones" said.

### The Lingering Fragrance of "Aspin"

He paused a moment, wrestling with his emotions. Then he spoke with a frankness I had rarely encountered in a Pentagon official.

"Task Force Russia no longer exists. It was cut off at the knees in ninety-four and folded into the new DPMO." He referred to the Defense POW/MIA Office set up during the illustrious tenure of the late Secretary of Defense Les Aspin. "They were too good, too open," "Jones" said. "They didn't play by Washington rules. Some had the strange idea that their most important clients were the MIA families, not the honchos on the D-ring of the Pentagon."

"Jones" added that foreign policy specialists in the incoming Clinton administration, especially Undersecretary of State Strobe Talbot, had a "Russia-first" agenda, under which the United States would pull out the stops to bolster Boris Yeltsin's "democratic" Russian government. That policy translated on the operational level to emasculating the Task Force Russia intelligence investigation just as they were prying open Soviet secrecy.

"The word came down fast," "Jones" said. "Stop pushing the Russians. Anything they might further reveal was bad old news that would embarrass Yeltsin and inflame American public opinion against Russia. TFR obeyed orders."

"That's what you call *realpolitik*," I said, a bit gratuitously.

Again "Jones" nodded. "You got that one right."

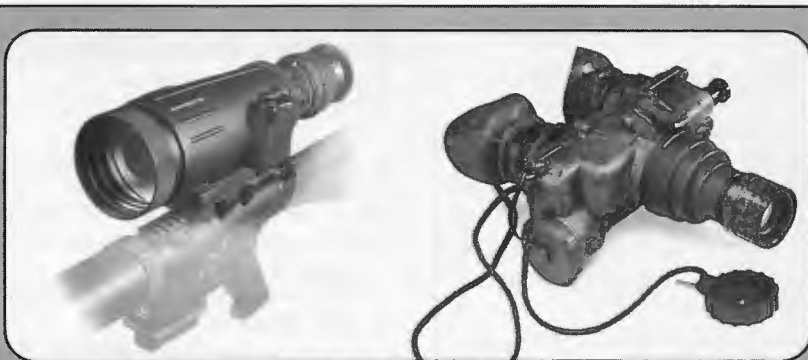
"Is there anything America can do?"

"The information we need is definitely in the former Soviet intelligence archives," "Jones" said emphatically. "They might have destroyed some of the original dossiers, but at that time, people were so paranoid that there were always multiple cover-your-ass info copies of all files. There are archivists in Moscow right now who could put their fingers on those files in half an hour if they were ordered to do so."

"But that's not going to happen, is it?"

"Jones" realized he had gone further than he had intended into the realm of politics. He dutifully laid down cash for his half of the check before answering. "Stranger things have happened," he said with a wry smile. "But my guess is it will be a different administration that finally decides to push the right buttons in Moscow."

"Cicero" is a former U.S. Government official who has studied the Vietnam War POW/MIA issue since the 1980s. ✕



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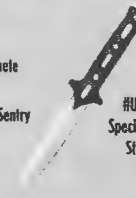


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## Prior Warning

Continued from page 64

the Northern District of Oklahoma, to discuss the newly identified threat of an “intra-mural fire fight” between FBI and ATF agents in what was now recognized as a commingled investigation.

Why was special treatment afforded nominal “leading suspects?”

The government's protection of Mahon and Strassmeir becomes even more unfathomable when you factor in Howe's claims to have told Finley contemporaneously of three trips made by Mahon and Strassmeir to case “the federal building” in Oklahoma City. (The trips were allegedly made in November and December 1994, and February 1995.) Howe repeated this claim at her trial. The government took strong exception, contending there was no written record to substantiate that Howe told Finley of such reconnaissance trips. While there will probably be no definitive resolution of these directly contradictory accounts, the jury's finding of “not guilty” may be the best evaluation of whom the jury saw as more credible — Carol Howe or federal law enforcement.

According to a knowledgeable source, the only plausible explanation for Mahon's special dispensation is that he, too, is an informant for federal law enforcement.

This experienced official also concluded that the Reverend Robert Millar, patriarch of the racist Elohim City compound, was an FBI informant. His opinion was confirmed at a 30 June 1997 pre-trial hearing when Tulsa FBI SA Peter Rickel, under close questioning by Howe's attorney, admitted that Millar “was an FBI source of information.”

### Cutting Its “Losses”

Less than a month later, the ATF moved to inactivate Carol Howe, dropping her from their roles as an active CI. The pretext given by Finley was that “CI-183 was no longer loyal nor competent to operate as an informant for ATF.” The official date of removal was 27 March, three weeks before the bombing of the Murrah building and the death of 168 citizens.

But within hours of the Oklahoma City bombing on 19 April, Angela Finley called Carol Howe to request her assistance in the investigation of the worst act of domestic terrorism in the history of these United States.

*Next month the author will audit the botched investigation of Elohim City, and leads not followed; he will raise more unanswered questions about what federal snitches at Elohim City had reported prior to the OKC bombing; he will reveal more about the special protection afforded obvious suspects, including a State Department connection; disclose startling information on some of the federal law enforcement officers involved — and shed light on the identity of OKC bombing suspect John Doe II. ☒*

## ADVERTISERS INDEX

ADCO .....	8
Automatic Knife Resource Guide .....	67
Benchmark .....	16
Boker USA .....	8
Brownell's .....	74
Bud K Worldwide .....	75
Cardio-Impact Gloves .....	73
Chase-Durer .....	Cover 4
Cold Steel .....	13
Colt .....	Cover 2
Custom Wilderness Adventures .....	22
Cutlery Shoppe .....	75
Dakota Arms .....	Cover 3
Delta Press .....	12
Direct Action Video .....	23
Eden Press .....	73
Excalibur Enterprises .....	18
Force XXI Combat Knives .....	22
Gerber Legendary Blades .....	11
Global School of Investigation .....	75
GSI (Parker-Hale) .....	70
Gun Parts Corp. ....	68
Hawk East .....	73
Hogue Grips .....	20
Intelligence Inc. ....	7
Inter-American Security Products .....	74
Interarms .....	25
Ironstone .....	73
IRSAIS .....	70
Kabar .....	9, 21, 29
Kel-Tec .....	17
L.A. Law Enforcers .....	74
LOTI Group Productions .....	67, 72
LRRP K-9 Services .....	76
Matthews Police Supply Co. ....	73
Michigan Body Armor .....	68
Milipol .....	9, 21
Military Book Club .....	5
Mission Knives .....	74
MORO Vision Night Vision .....	71
NIC. Inc. Law Enforcement Supply .....	76
Outhouse Publishing .....	13
Paladin Press .....	5
Pearce Grip .....	69
Police Supply Store .....	66
Ranger Joe's .....	75
RPB .....	76
S&K Labs .....	74, 76
School of Locksmithing .....	75
School of Private Investigation .....	73
Silver Creek Industries .....	76
Silverman's .....	76
SOF Subscriptions .....	34
Southern Ordnance .....	68
Starlight Systems .....	69
Steiner .....	25
Steve Arnold's Gunroom .....	65
Tactical Video Security Int'l .....	74
U.S. Cavalry .....	73
United Cutlery .....	71
USI Corp. ....	76
The Wilderness .....	75
Your Supply Depot .....	73

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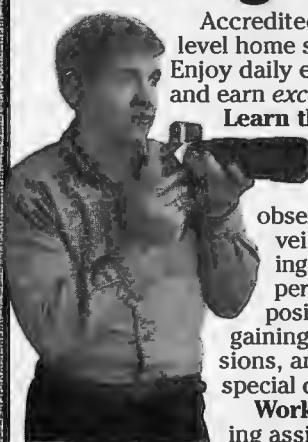
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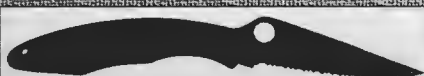
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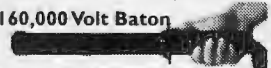


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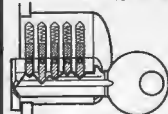
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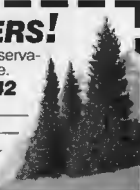
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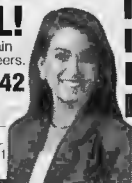
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## Korea: Are We Ready For War?

**D**uring the week of 20 July — for almost 30 minutes — North Korean rifle, machine-gun and artillery fire cracked across the Demilitarized Zone's Central Front, near my old 27th Raider's patrolling grounds. Per the standard drill, Southern troops responded in kind in the longest running on-again, off-again stand-off in modern times.

Were these the first shots of the nightmare war predicted last April by high-ranking North Korean defector Hwang Jang Yop or just another shootout of the sort that's been going on since the 1953 ceasefire that never really happened?

South Korea has 815,000 combat soldiers on high alert along the DMZ, while North Korea has 1,054,000 soldiers leaning forward in their foxholes awaiting the banzai order. In the middle of this potential killing field, where everyone has their finger on the trigger, sit 37,000 very vulnerable U.S. air, ground and naval personnel.

The 2d Infantry Division is the main U.S. ground force, and they're forward deployed, well within communist artillery range. But if war comes, will these two brigades be ready to fight? Here's what members of the "Indianhead Division" have told me in the last few days:

A platoon leader: "It's amazing. We're no farther away from war than the time of flight of an incoming round. In 35 seconds, we could be facing instant death, yet we struggle to get parts for our vehicles.

When Vice President Gore visited, we towed our deadlined vehicles out of the motor pool to display a false front of neatly maintained, precisely lined up tanks and vehicles that were supposedly ready to fight."

A company commander: "We lack the ammunition to train, and yet we jump through hoops to show visiting VIPs like Newt Gingrich how combat-ready we are by laying on costly live-fire demonstrations. During these dog and pony shows, critical ammunition is wasted that's needed to train and instill confidence in our soldiers who face an unpredictable, totally irrational enemy. When will our leaders realize 'Go is more important than Show?'"

An Infantry platoon sergeant: "I'm lucky to have half my soldiers out for training. The rest are either sick or lame or off on some detail such as policing the post, or being a jock. The turnover is a joke. Every time I learn someone's name, they're gone. My platoon has turned over more than once in the ten months I've been here. How can I build a fighting team or mold a cohesive unit?"



*Col. David Hackworth (Ret.) also writes a syndicated weekly column titled "Defending America." "Hack" doesn't pull any punches and many liberal rags won't carry his writing. If your local paper falls into that category, call the editor and let him know you'd like to see "Defending America" on the Op-Ed page. It's syndicated by King Features, 235 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017.*

A First Sergeant: "This place (Camp Casey) is morale, welfare, and recreation Heaven and it's all an opiate for the troops. It's got a Burger King, Popeye's, Robin Hood Sandwiches, Anthony's Pizza, Baskin Robbins Ice Cream, Amigos TexMex, a bowling alley, huge swimming pool, softball diamonds, video rental stores, shopettes, a PX, commissary, library, theater, book store, golf course, three all-ranks clubs, and a partridge and a pear.

"Yet, the camp's been within artillery range of the DMZ for 45 years, and there's still no bunkers except the drainage ditches. If the bad guys attack, we're all either instant cinders, mincemeat or biologically contaminated corpses.

"I have raised this survivability problem with the brass. They reply, 'We don't want to show the North that we're on too much of a war footing. It might provoke them.' Doesn't anyone with eagles and stars care for their troops' welfare anymore?"

A staff captain: "I wonder how much these guys will appreciate all these goodies (at Camp Casey) when the shells are raining down, and there's no place to duck."

A staff major: "We've got an (infantry) air assault battalion sitting directly across the DMZ in the middle of one of the enemy's main avenues of

approach. When the balloon goes up, they won't even make it out of their barracks, let alone to their choppers. They'll be like grapes between the toes of a French wine maker."

A commander: "We are short key leaders. As soon as a captain leaves his company, he's off to a higher priority assignment. Duty in a troop unit is no longer high priority."

In 1950, the 2d Division, along with the rest of the U. S. Army, wasn't ready for the North Koreans, and they paid a heavy human price. Will history repeat itself?

[Http://www.hackworth.com](http://www.hackworth.com) is the address of David Hackworth's home page.

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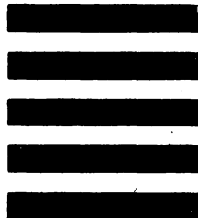
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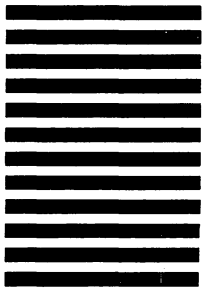




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